

Hafa Adai!

NMC's Staff Senate recognizes 3 outstanding employees. **PAGE 2**

Man allegedly beats girlfriend over breakfast meal. **PAGE 3**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

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## IN RESPONSE TO BABAUTA'S CALL FOR TORRES' RESIGNATION

# 'That's not going to happen'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

**T**hus responded Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to Rep. Celina Babauta's (D-Saipan) call for his resignation during last Tuesday's Senate hearing on his motion to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment, adding that he does not intend to back out now.



Torres

Torres also pointed out 62% of the CNMI community voted for him to represent

them. "Never in the history has any other governor gained the same results. So I represent those people, even [Babauta]. I will still represent her because as a governor, I represent everyone," he said.

Babauta joined over 20 other community members at the Senate chamber last Tues-

day to deliver comments on the ongoing hearing. While on the podium, Babauta called for Torres to take the high road and resign.

"If Gov. Torres truly wants to take the high road, he can simply resign. Make no mistake, the filing of local charges

See **HAPPEN** on **Page 4**

## Rota and GCA students sweep contests

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

In a two-part proclamation signing yesterday morning

that designates the month of May as Law Month and Drug Court Month, some middle school students and elementary school students were

recognized at the Guma' Hustisia for their winning essays and posters related to the Law Month theme: "Toward a more perfect union:

the Constitution in times of change."

The occasion saw the courthouse's atrium packed

See **ROTA** on **Page 4**



The students from Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School, who won the essay contest; and students from Grace Christian Academy who won, the poster making contest, pose with their first, second, and third place certificates at the Guma' Hustisia atrium yesterday morning during the proclamation signing designating the month of May as Law Month and Drug Court Month.

LEIGH GASES



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Fuel prices in the CNMI continue to fluctuate, with Mobil Oil Marianas raising its prices by 20 cents yesterday, just a little over a week since the last price rollback.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

\$6.78 from \$6.48.

Fuel prices in the CNMI

See **GAS** on **Page 4**

Fuel companies in the CNMI have raised gas prices again by 20 cents, just a little over a week since the last gas price rollback.

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead early yesterday morning. Shell Marianas is expected to increase fuel prices tomorrow while Rota and Tinian expect to raise its prices soon after.

As of yesterday morning, Mobil now charges \$5.96 for a gallon of its Extra fuel, from \$5.76. Its Supreme was hiked from \$6.21 per gallon to \$6.41 while diesel is now

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## INSIDE

### BUSINESS

Netflix suffered its first subscriber loss in more than a decade, causing its shares to plunge 25%.

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### WORLD

Russia hurled its military might against Ukrainian cities and poured more troops into the war.

Page 13

### LIFE & STYLE

Johnny Depp said he felt compelled to sue his ex-wife Amber Heard out of an obsession for the truth.

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## Local

### NMC Staff Senate recognizes three outstanding employees

Northern Marianas College's Staff Senate awarded three employees as "Staff of the Quarter" as part of the college's efforts to recognize its hardworking and committed staff members. The three are Facilities and Admin Services administrative manager Shirley Blas, Office of Admissions and Records administrative



NMC  
Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, presents Shirley Blas with the NMC Staff of the Quarter award.



NMC  
Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, right, presents Kenneth Gabrido with the NMC Staff of the Quarter award.

manager Kenneth Gabrido, and NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan. Each of them will receive a prize and a reserved parking space for the quarter.

"Congratulations to Staff of the Quarter awardees Shirley Blas, Kenneth Gabrido, and Carla Sablan," NMC Staff Senate vice president Ryan Calvo said. "They have been recognized by their peers for their extra effort in performing their duties to the college. I thank them for all that they do!"

Blas, Gabrido, and Sablan were recognized at NMC Staff Senate's quarterly Coffee Connection held for employees on Wednesday.

"I'm very appreciative of the college and my fellow staff members who voted for me and the other awardees to be a 'Staff of the Quarter,'" Blas said. "I am grateful for the teamwork that we have here on campus and I'm really proud to be a member of the Proa tribe. I'm really blessed to work with amazing people."

Gabrido also thanked his fellow coworkers for the award.

"I'd like to thank everyone



NMC  
NMC Staff of the Quarter award recipient Carla Sablan.

for voting for me, but I don't deserve this award," Gabrido said. "I was able to receive this award because of my hardworking team members who help me everyday at the college, so I'd like to dedicate this award to them."

Sablan, now a two-time recipient of this award, said she is very grateful for her amazing team.

See NMC on Page 4

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PRESENTS THE

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This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GC-00814-RURA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



# Man allegedly beats girlfriend

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on a man who is accused of beating his girlfriend because there were no eggs for breakfast.

During a bail hearing last Monday, Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on Jerome Tudela for the charges of disturbing the peace to include disturbing the peace, assault and battery, strangulation, and domestic violence.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers responded to a domestic violence complaint around 8:22am last Monday, April 19 in an apartment in San Vicente.

Court documents state that the girlfriend had woken up Tudela to inform him that there was processed meat but no eggs for breakfast like he had requested. Tudela allegedly got angry and told her to cook soba instead and then called her names in anger.

Afterwards, Tudela allegedly took a Samsung cellphone and shoved it in the victim's mouth, which led the victim to cry out. Their neighbor then knocked on their door to ask if everything was alright and Tudela said they were fine.

Tudela then locked the apartment's door and closed all the windows, after which he allegedly grabbed and punched the victim on the body about 10 times.

He also allegedly strangled the victim "by using his right forearm in a rear naked chokehold where she was unable to breathe."

He also allegedly pushed the

victim down and yelled at her. The victim then managed to free herself and ran out of the house. It was reportedly the victim who called the police to complain

about the alleged beating.

Tudela was arrested at 9:57am that same day at Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa. (Leigh Gases)

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<p><b>2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$14,995</b></p> <p>• 69,682 MILES STK: 21M012A KBB: \$15,515</p>	<p><b>2016 MAZDA MAZDA6</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$19,995</b></p> <p>• 52,907 MILES STK: 16P380 KBB: \$20,065</p>	<p><b>2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$22,995</b></p> <p>• 70,152 MILES STK: 16P375 KBB: \$23,499</p>	<p><b>2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$33,995</b></p> <p>• 15,260 MILES STK: 18P344 KBB: \$34,836</p>
<p><b>2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$14,995</b></p> <p>• 5,800 MILES STK: 18HS1011 KBB: \$14,778</p>	<p><b>2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$21,995</b></p> <p>• 50,501 MILES STK: 16P374 KBB: \$23,203</p>	<p><b>2019 TOYOTA C-HR</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$24,995</b></p> <p>• 24,765 MILES STK: 22H160A KBB: \$26,363</p>	<p><b>2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4WD</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b>  <b>\$49,995</b></p> <p>• 28,265 MILES STK: 17P347</p>
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Gebhard said the safety of their customers and staff "are our NO. 1 priority and the plot was foiled by our alert technician and professional security. ... My first reaction was not about money, however. [It] was the safety of our staff and customers."

Gebhard said no one was injured in the incident.

"All cameras worked perfectly and we have very clear video from angles given to police," Gebhard added. He said police officers arrived on scene "extremely quickly to investigate this incident," and "our staff, security and the police department are to be congratulated for a job well done and a huge thank you," he said. (Leigh Gases)



# NMC Business Night today

As part of its efforts to promote local entrepreneurs, the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network will be hosting a Small Business Night today featuring new and upcoming local entrepreneurs and their products and services. The community is invited to attend.

The event, held in collaboration with NMC's Office Student Activities and Lead-

ership, will take place today, April 21, 2022, from 4pm to 7pm at the NMC Mango Terrace (located in the center of NMC's campus). For each purchase made, patrons will receive free ticket for a chance to win some amazing raffle prizes donated by our generous vendors. Entertainment will also be provided

The Small Business Night

will feature a range of products and services which will include home decor, handwoven accessories, handmade candles, makeup products, hair accessories, upcycled jewelry pieces, handmade pinatas, artisan gelato, and more.

"I am excited to showcase my product and services for the first time to the public at the Small Business Night

event. I was invited by the CNMI SBDC Network to join this event and they have helped me build confidence to showcase my work," said Jennifer Benavente, owner of Craftify 670.

The event will feature products from the following small businesses: Mind-2Muscle, Craftify670, Bonitu Basula, Seasoned with Hafa Adai, Isla Shave Ice 2 GO, Neni Girl Nails, Saipan Snaps, LLC., Vivid Beauty,

Maipé Pachotmu, Chiku Chiku, Cherrymoon.co, Paopao, Candle J Saipan, NMC Business Club, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, and Pho

King A. There will also be entertainment by local music group VIBE and a special appearance from Palm-Trio670. (NMC)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### JKPL closes at 5pm today

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will close at 5pm today, April 21, 2022, for Staff Professional Development Training. JKPL will resume regular hours on Friday, April 22, 2022, from 1:30pm to 7pm. (PR)

### JKPL parking lot closed Friday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's parking lot will be

closed this Friday, April 22, 2022, in order to accommodate and prepare for the JKPL 5k Literacy Fun Run that will take place on Saturday, April 23. (PR)

### Water service interruption today in lower section of Upper Dandan Homestead

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on the lower

section of the Upper Dandan homestead today, April 21, 2022, from 8:30am. to 4:30pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC water personnel to repair a 6-inch mainline leak near the Children's Park in Dandan that is causing the tank level of the San Vicente TSA to drop. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men

and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

## HAPPEN

From Page 1

against the governor is just the beginning. Federal indictments, among others, will follow. The governor claimed that in the aftermath of these criminal charges, they will take the high road. The only high road for the governor is the one that leads to his resignation. He needs to stop dividing our community. We know this will never happen because rather than step down with some dignity, the now disgraced governor says we shall prevail. Prevail over whom exactly? The Attorney General's Office? The FBI? Justice?" she said.

Torres said in a later inter-

view, though, that he aims to continue to do great things for the CNMI community despite the scrutiny from the opposite political party.

"Obviously, there's political differences. But that's not going to sway me to continue to do great things for the CNMI. You've seen that there's been progress here in the CNMI. Whether you're a supporter or not, there are certain things that cannot be hidden. We are the safest place here in the CNMI. That's not a coincidence. That's through good leadership and partnership, not just local partnerships but through federal partners. So yes, I'm staying right here," he said.

During her public comments, Babauta also added

that Torres is diverting the community's attention away from the OAG's recently filed criminal charges against him.

"The governor confused the silence of the AG's patient and methodical due diligence as a ringing endorsement for this misconduct. This position certainly did not age well. In an attempt to shift attention from the actual criminal charges or the potential jail time that he now faces, the governor now claims that the criminal case is politically motivated. This is absolutely shameless," she said.

Babauta also called on the Senate to look closely into the motion to dismiss before voting on it this Friday.

"If the Senate used the same attention to detail and scrutiny

that it did with our House impeachment records to lead it to find the most insignificant typographical errors and misspellings, presumably it should also be able to see the blatant and obvious abuses of the public's trust, theft, neglect, and corruption that the record documented in over 8,000 pages. That is exactly the record the governor would want the Senate to dismiss," she said.

The Senate is set to vote on Torres' motion to dismiss the Article of Impeachment tomorrow during a special house session.

Sen. Paul Manglona (D-Rota) recently filed a motion in Superior Court to temporarily restrain the Senate from proceeding with the vote.

## GAS

From Page 1

have been seesawing between increases and decreases as of late. Prior to the latest increase, the CNMI saw back-to-back price rollbacks after months of steady increases.

Last April 11, fuel companies lowered prices from \$5.86 to \$5.76 per gallon of regular fuel. Supreme fuel was also reduced from \$6.31 a gallon to \$6.21.

Before the April 11 rollback, the price of fuel was reduced from \$6.01 to \$5.86 in the first week of April.

The CNMI saw its first fuel increase of the year back on Jan. 5, when local oil companies raised prices from \$4.81 per gallon of regular fuel to \$4.96. Following that first increase, the CNMI saw a string of increases with fuel prices reaching an all-time-high back in March at \$6.06 per gallon of regular fuel.

After hitting the \$6 mark, the CNMI finally saw its first gas rollback in mid-March with oil companies bringing regular fuel down to \$5.86. The rollback was followed by yet another increase at the end of March with fuel going back up to \$6.01.

A few local motorists were

shocked to see an increase in fuel prices after fuel had been reduced twice in the span of just weeks.

"I thought gas was only going to continue to be rolled back, or at least remain at \$5.76. I didn't realize fuel was raised yet again until I saw my total at the register," a 45-year-old motorist said.

Meanwhile, a 31-year-old motorist was completely clueless about the price increase until it was mentioned to her.

"I didn't even notice gas went up again with everything going on within our community. Gas is so expensive everywhere, so I don't think its new anymore to see fuel increases. I mean it's unfortunate, don't get me wrong, but it's no longer surprising," she said.

Meanwhile, a college student said fluctuating fuel prices is now the "norm" for the CNMI and the rest of the nation.

"I'm sure we aren't the only ones experiencing these inconsistent fuel prices. One week its brought down, the next its hiked back up again. This is the new normal. We did lose one of the world's largest fuel sources due to the international conflict. I think this is how it's going to be from now on," he said.

## NMC

From Page 2

"Being named 'Staff of the Quarter' is such an honor," Sablan said. "I'm grateful to be part of such an amazing and hardworking NMC team who have always been helpful since Day 1 and continue to keep the job interesting. Thank you all so much."

NMC president Gal-

vin Deleon Guerrero, EdD thanked Blas, Gabrido, and Sablan for all the hard work they do for the college.

"The NMC family is thankful to have hard working individuals like Shirley, Ken, and Carla who ensure our campuses run smoothly," Deleon Guerrero said. "I appreciate their continued dedication to the college." (NMC)

## ROTA

From Page 1

of dignitaries from all three branches of government as well as court staff, parents, students, and teachers of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School of Rota and Grace Christian Academy of Saipan.

Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School students swept the middle school essay contest as they won first, second, and third place. The first-place winner, who received the "Chief Justice Award," was Aden Chonne H. Calvo, an eighth-grade student. The second-place winner, who received the "Associate Justice Award," was Lovelee Zhene B. Jingco, an eighth-grade student, and the third-place winner, who received the "Supreme Court Award," was Eianne Ladao, an eighth-grade student as well.

Armi Atalig, a teacher of RHIJSHS and chaperone for the middle school students,

was understandably proud of the school's students. "We have brilliant students that really know our constitution... and their essays deal with the ideals and principles of the government that we have. ...I hope that they do a better job in terms of their future."

For the elementary school poster contest, Grace Christian Academy of Saipan claimed the first, second, and third place honors. The first-place winner, who received the "Presiding Judge Award," was fourth-grade student Victoria En Mei Huang. Second place went to fifth-grade student Breanna May Lopez, who received the "Associate Justice Award." The third-place winner was fifth-grade student Minato Takahasi, who won the "Superior Court Award."

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said he's very proud of the students—"all students, public and private [school] students, that really stepped up to the plate to take



Five of the six essay and poster contest winners pose for a photo with dignitaries at the Guma Hustisia yesterday morning. LEIGH GASES

the time to execute their skills in reading, writing...and creativity. I am very pleased that

CNMI students are rising up and taking the challenge, so I'm very pleased and it's well

deserved. This is their day, and I really hope to see more and more of this competition. And

the beauty about it is that both public and private school students are being awarded."



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Call for student researchers

A new research project being led by University of Guam president emeritus Robert A. Underwood and sponsored by local businessman Hidenobu “George” Takagi of Takagi & Associates Inc. will document the immigration of 20 Japanese men to Guam prior to World War II and the histories and legacies of the Japanese-CHamoru families they started here.

The research of each family will include details of the original Japanese immigrant to Guam, their place of origin in Japan, and reason for coming to Guam; the names of their spouse, children, and grandchildren; their work and experience in Guam before and during the war; their post-World War II experience; and their family’s legacy and contributions to the society of Guam.

Titled the Guam Issei Project—issei being a Japanese term for first-generation immigrants—the project will identify 20 student researchers through an application and review process to research and write on a Japanese-CHamoru family of their choosing.

In the early part of the 20th century, many Japanese men came to Guam to start new lives. Most became Catholic, married CHamoru women, and worked in different kinds of jobs or started businesses. Many of their offspring became political, educational, and business leaders, and their family names remain prominent and recognizable in Guam society today, including Okada, Tanaka, Shinohara, Shimizu, Ishizaki, and Sayama.

“They were widely respected for their work ethic and their ability to become immersed in the cultural life of the CHamoru people while contributing to the growth of the island,” the project description states. “The stories of these men and their families provide the background for some of the most interesting turns of history in Guam. [...]

Underwood will lead the project with assistance from UOG associate professor of History Michael Clement and Asako Takagi Araw, vice president of Takagi and Associates.

**Students encouraged to apply**

Students attending the University of Guam, Guam Community College, or any other postsecondary institution are encouraged to apply to research and write a family’s history for this project, in particular students who are descendants of or otherwise connected to Japanese-CHamoru families and those who have demonstrated research skills. Students will receive \$750 for their completed work.

The project will take place from June to November. Interested student researchers should email [anacletus2010@gmail.com](mailto:anacletus2010@gmail.com) for an application form. The deadline to apply is May 30. (*UOG*)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID

RFP NO.: DPW22-RFP No.: 42200094

SUBMISSION DATE: May 23, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Engineering and Design Related Services”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **April 22, 2022** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **May 10, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 17, 2022** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres and the Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-year Federal Aid Highway Program's Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment 4.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the DPW Technical Services Highway Section for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd Flr. Suite 211 at the Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on Beach Road or via email to: [Im.s.dpwtsd@gmail.com](mailto:Im.s.dpwtsd@gmail.com) or [Idlcs.dpw@gmail.com](mailto:Idlcs.dpw@gmail.com) no later than May 19, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

Should you have any questions regarding the TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Ms. Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator of the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division-Highway Section at (670) 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP FY20-23 Amendment 4:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

AMENDMENT 4								
DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$975,986.00	\$1,417,604.20	\$1,928,356.62	\$1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Service	Admin	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE - Design Construction				\$1,000,000.00
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE - Design Construction CM			\$850,000.00	\$932,630.00
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE - Design Construction		\$500,000.00		
II	San Jose	205	Route 205	PE - Design Construction		\$350,000.00		\$180,000.00
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM				\$880,000.00
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE - Design Construction CM		\$2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE - Design Construction CM				\$200,000.00
III	Chalan Piao-Sa Jose	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE - Design Construction CM		\$6,920,000.00 \$1,000,000.00	\$1,090,000.00	
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE - Design Construction CM				\$1,000,000.00 \$200,000.00
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE - Design Construction CM - DPW	\$2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$20,000.00	\$5,500,000.00 \$300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$500,000.00		\$124,000.00	\$500,000.00 \$300,000.00
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM				\$1,500,000.00
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$681,907.77	
		31/307	Hazard Elimination-Intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa	Construction		\$200,000.00	\$368,092.30	
		34	Kagman Traffic Road Repair	Construction			\$250,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$4,053,486.00	\$18,745,104.20	\$5,349,856.69	\$8,394,616.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$603,225.00	\$20,813,805.99	\$6,112,001.79	\$5,275,445.10
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$470,000.00	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00
Annual Allocation:								
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$24,867,291.99	\$24,857,105.99	\$10,625,301.79	\$9,318,745.10
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					\$4,053,486.00	\$18,745,104.20	\$5,349,856.69	\$8,394,616.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)					\$20,813,805.99	\$6,112,001.79	\$5,275,445.10	\$924,129.10



# Got a business idea? Put it to the test at Startup Weekend Micronesia

Individuals throughout Micronesia with the dream of starting their own business will have an opportunity to get their idea off the ground at the three-day Startup Weekend Micronesia event happening next week from Wednesday, April 27, to Friday, April 29.

The event will be held online over the Zoom and Discord platforms for participants in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Pohnpei, Yap, and the Marshall Islands.

This is the third iteration of the event, which is hosted by the University of Guam Entrepreneur Society student organization as well as the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center within the UOG School of Business and

Public Administration.

With the theme "Solve 2Day, Evolve 2Morrow," this year's Startup Weekend will have a strong focus on sustainability in Micronesia. Participants will pitch their best business ideas, then form teams, build a business plan, and turn their ideas into small-business startups. They will then pitch the startup to a panel of judges who will determine the winner. The top three teams will be awarded prizes.

The entrepreneurial event is associated with Google Techstars Startup Weekend, a program that teaches people how to create a real company, which has been launched in more than 150 countries across the world.

The Startup Weekend event model was first brought to

Guam in 2014 by the UOG Entrepreneurial Society under the leadership and foresight of SBPA dean Annette T. Santos. In 2016, the UOG Professional Master of Business Administration program hosted the first Startup Weekend Saipan. Then in 2019, the PMBA, in

collaboration with the Pacific Islands SBDC, hosted the first-ever Startup Weekend Micronesia, which took place simultaneously on seven islands in Micronesia. A total of 119 participants and 30 teams competed in the historic event. The second Startup Week-

end Micronesia was held last year on a virtual platform, with 76 participants from Guam, the NMI, Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae.

## Register to participate

Interested participants may register at [url.uog.edu/swm2022](http://url.uog.edu/swm2022).

The registration fee of \$15 may be paid at [url.uog.edu/swm2022-pay](http://url.uog.edu/swm2022-pay).

For more information, email [uog.esoc@gotritons.uog.edu](mailto:uog.esoc@gotritons.uog.edu), or follow the event on Instagram @swmicronesia and Facebook @sweekendmicronesia. (PR)

## Power interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on April 22, 2022, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, affecting Beach Road.

■ **Momentary Outage Time:** 8:30am to 9am and 12pm to 12:30pm

■ **Area(s) Affected:** Beach Road (Joeten Superstore, Marianas Visitors Authority, J's Restaurant, Joeten Motors, First Hawaiian Bank, Bank of Saipan, Feetagh Pl., Apungupung Pl., Luughal Dr., Sasha Building, Thrift Store, Fitaw Ct., Pumpkin St., Alalak Dr., Lasaga Ln.,

Chaioti Pl., and Dotse Pl.)

■ **Purpose:** To relocate an existing concrete power pole for the purpose of traffic light installation. In addition, to replace a wooden power pole to concrete pole on the intersection of Beach Road and Quarter Master Road. See map in yellow highlights.

■ **Circuit:** Feeder 2

■ **Water Well(s) Affected:** None

■ **Wastewater Facility Affected:** None, however, S11 and S12 lift stations will be monitored during the outage period. (PR)

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

presents

THE 14TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

# CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

OPEN TO ALL NMI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

THE WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE U.S. CAPITOL FOR ONE YEAR

## ARTWORK ELIGIBILITY

### ORIGINAL

In concept, design, and execution.

### TWO-DIMENSIONAL

Paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art, photographs.

### SUITABLE

For public display.

**SUBMISSIONS DUE MAY 4, 2022**

For more information, call (670) 323-2647 in Saipan, (670) 433-2647 in Tinian, or (670) 532-2647 in Rota.

*Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.*



## DCCA-DYS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS (DCCA - DYS PEAFF) PROGRAM

Authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



**PURPOSE:** To distribute cash assistance benefit to income-eligible families for the purpose of addressing Non-Recurrent, Short Term (NSRT) needs resulting from the COVID pandemic.

**BENEFIT:** One-time \$700 (Seven -hundred dollars) CASH benefit per eligible family.

### FUNDING DISTRIBUTION:

- Saipan (490 Eligible Families)
- Tinian (70 Eligible Families)
- Rota (70 Eligible Families)

*\*Open slots can be transferred to the island that may need additional in the event slots are not used\**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Listed on the application

### APPLICATION:

Can be picked up from any of the following locations beginning **April 25, 2022:** Kagman Community Center; Tanapag Youth Center; Division of Youth Services-Admin. Office in Capitol Hill; Rota DYS Office, Rota Sinapalo Youth Center or the Tinian DYS Office

**Application Deadline:** Application period will remain open from **April 25th** until August 31, 2022 or as soon as funds are depleted, whichever comes first. (All submissions will be date and time stamped)

**Application Submission:** Completed applications and supporting documents can be dropped off at any of the locations indicated above or via email through contacts below. Please note that any incomplete package will not be entertained.

### FOR INQUIRIES:

#### SAIPAN CONTACT(s):

Zina C. Nekaifes, 670-237-1000, via email at [znekaifes@dys.gov.mp](mailto:znekaifes@dys.gov.mp)  
Rowena R. Relado, 670-237-1002, via email at [rrelado@dys.gov.mp](mailto:rrelado@dys.gov.mp)

#### TINIAN CONTACT(s):

Cindy T. Alo, 670-433-9272 via email at [calo@dys.gov.mp](mailto:calo@dys.gov.mp)  
Augusta B. Famaw, 670-433-9272, via email at [afamaw@dys.gov.mp](mailto:afamaw@dys.gov.mp)

#### ROTA CONTACT(s):

Mildred Sikebert, 670-532-9393, via email at [msikebert@dys.gov.mp](mailto:msikebert@dys.gov.mp)  
Quindy Maratita, 670-532-9393, via email at [qmaratita@dys.gov.mp](mailto:qmaratita@dys.gov.mp)

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan  
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
DCCA Secretary



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## INVITATION TO BID

CUC-IFB-22-025

### SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Defeat makes Russia dangerous, but world must maintain support for Ukraine

If a shrewd Kremlin military analyst had drawn up a list of objectives for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the reality of this horrific misadventure is more or less the photo negative of that. Rather than a quick and decisive march to Kyiv, the Russian military has alternately been bogged down and repelled, received nothing but anger and derision from the locals, sustained heavy losses and lost a crop of high-ranking officers. Meantime, the West's tightening vise around the Russian economy has made things increasingly hard on Vladimir Putin's regime domestically.

In the latest incredible turn of events, last week the Russian flagship Moskva was sunk by Ukrainian missiles. The ship was not only a warship but a symbol of its naval strength, featuring prominently in 2014's annexation of Crimea. It won't be participating in any more unprovoked invasions from the bottom of the Black Sea.

Unfortunately, rather than taking their massive setbacks and casualties as a sign that his campaign is doomed to fail, Putin's forces responded with heavy-handed retaliation. Evidence of war crimes continues to mount as international investigators find proof of abductions, rapes, strikes on civilian infrastructure and the use of banned munitions. Following Russia's withdrawal from the area around Kyiv, more than 900 civilians have been found dead.

At this pivotal juncture, the international community must continue supporting the Ukrainian defense, including with robust weapons and supply shipments. Russia's dark and indistinct warnings about the consequences—the CIA director, while cautioning that he's seen no "practical evidence" suggesting such an attack is imminent, says America can't take lightly the possibility of Putin using "tactical" or "low-yield" nuclear weapons in Ukraine—should only stiffen our spines.

Putin's attack had the base objective of weakening NATO. On that front, like all others, he has failed miserably, as Sweden and Finland are moving to join the defense pact. The despot can make all the noise he wants about his nuclear weapons arsenal. The rest of the world sees that he must be contained.

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## A carefully crafted narrative of war was a tool of the Soviet Union. The lies have never stopped

Whenever as a child I came upon a description of people living their daily life during the 1940s, I reacted with disbelief. How can this be, when millions in Europe were experiencing incomprehensible horror? It felt inconceivable.

The daily life of Soviet children was infused with a narrative of war—of past and present threat. It was pervasive in children's literature. No person who grew up in the Soviet Union could forget Malchish Kibaltchish, the fictional character in Arkady Gaidar's 1933 children's book "The Tale of the Military Secret, Boy Malchish Kibaltchish and His Firm Word." In the story, Malchish helps the Red Army fight the bourgeoisie during the Russian Civil War. He is captured and tortured to death but does not reveal a military secret. He is a superhero, akin to a Disney character—with merchandise, a cartoon and a film. The film isn't graphic—just a scream, off-screen. I was 7 when I saw it.

Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, a real-life partisan, reportedly was tortured and executed by the Nazis in 1941 when she was 18. On a class field trip to the dentist—yes, that was a thing—I was chastised by a teacher for being fearful of getting a cavity filled without the use of Novocaine. "Zoya had the Soviet star burned into her back by the Nazis, and she didn't cry," the teacher said.

It is questionable whether Zoya's story is true, considering it was a tool of Soviet propaganda, but she was a real person. Manufactured personas, revered as heroes, were ones that unquestioningly put the "motherland" above all else. These children's stories helped build a foundation of blind trust. As a parent of two young children born in the U.S., I hope to instill in them that heroism is about truth that can come to light only through questioning. But heroes of the Kremlin, of today and yesterday, were designed to perpetuate lies.

A deliberately crafted narrative of war has been a powerful tool of the Soviet regime and, by all accounts, has remained so in the years of Vladimir Putin. We would have known this had we been paying attention. Effective in achieving extreme nationalism is leveraging the natural human need for identity and belonging. Extremism is pervasive in everyday life, often with little consequence—look at sports fandom. In times of peace, extreme nationalism can be used to instill paranoia and fear. In the face of

By **LIZA LERNER**  
Chicago Tribune



*Liza Lerner was born in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to the U.S. with her parents in 1990.*

perceived injustice, it is a weapon of war that has the potential to instigate unimaginable cruelty toward the alleged enemy.

We have seen it in Bucha, Ukraine, with much more to emerge. Further, one may argue that the Kremlin has always been at war—fabricating "enemies of the state" to where no one is safe. Soviet leader Josef Stalin sent millions whom he perceived as threats to the gulags. In 1953, he manufactured the Doctors' Plot, an alleged conspiracy of prominent, mostly Jewish doctors to murder Soviet government officials. Putin's use of the same brutal strategies to achieve control, albeit less obvious to the average onlooker, has been evident for years.

"Us versus them": It has always been this way.

As we are busy debating Putin's military tactics or questioning the state of the Russian military, we fail to see that Putin's real weapon is the Russian people. Are they the victims of the Kremlin's meticulously executed lies that have been a reality of Russian life for generations? Or are they complicit in the full-scale tragedy that is unfolding in Europe in the 21st century in front of our eyes?

And what about us? In her Feb. 26 New Yorker article, Masha Gessen said people underestimate how quickly war becomes tedious. And tedious, it has become. So tedious that most of us have looked away. The stories of women raped and executed in front of their children are indeed too much to handle.

So we go on with our lives, ambivalent. We go to work. We take our children to soccer. We do this while millions of people are suffering unimaginable horror at the hands of a regime that is a master of lies.

But after all, this is nothing new—it has always been this way.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## ‘There is still time. You can still do what’s right’

*Editor’s Note: Rep. Christina Marie Sablan (D-Saipan) delivered the following statement during the Public Comments section of the Motion to Dismiss hearing for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the Senate chamber Tuesday, April 19, 2022.*

If we knew nothing about the history leading up to today, it would be more than a little puzzling that the Senate would be conducting this proceeding in this way. After all, what is a trial without prosecutors? What is a trial without evidence? And how can you hear a motion to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment without prosecutors or evidence?

If you will hear only one side, there can only be one foregone conclusion. And that, of course, is dismissal. In that event, there could be no pretending that there was any fairness or justice in this trial. But we do know about the history leading up to today.

We know that the Senate has rejected the House’s attempts to submit the impeachment record, not just once, but twice. The first time the submission was deemed “premature”—attempted before the rules were adopted.

The second time the record was deemed out of compliance with the rules. The House clerk said she would need more time to reorganize 8,000 pages to the Senate’s liking. Her request was rejected, because the rules are the rules.

Of course, we know about these rules too. That neither the public nor the House were allowed to see them before they were adopted by the Joint Committee, in violation of the Open Government Act.

We know who did get a chance to see them though. And more

than just see them: the governor’s counsel actually had a hand in writing these rules. So it makes sense why the rules are the way they are. One-sided in favor of the impeached official, every time. Tainted by the perception and the reality of bias.

And it makes sense why the rules would be slanted so much against the House. That there could only be one House prosecutor chosen by the Senate, and no other. That the rules would make it possible to reject the House’s entire record of evidence on mere technicalities. That the rules would also make today’s proceeding possible: for the Senate to hear only the governor’s side and his motion to dismiss, without a word from House prosecutors at trial, or a shred of evidence for why you should, instead, convict.

The rules are the rules. And yet if the Senate were truly committed to strictly following the letter of the rules, the governor’s motion to dismiss is actually out of order and time-barred. It should not be entertained today at all, based on your rules.

But since you are proceeding with this hearing, it’s worth noting that the governor’s motion to dismiss speaks not at all to the merits of impeachment. Half of his arguments are based on more technicalities, half are based on me. It’s classic deflection. But also revealing. It shows so much about the governor’s lack of actual defenses against the volumes of evidence pointing to his abuses of power and misuses of public funds. And it explains why he has gone to great lengths, even a lawsuit, to avoid testifying under oath at all costs.

It’s all there in the record, senators, if you will only look at it: enough evidence for 15 members of the House to impeach Gov. Torres. Enough evidence for the attorney general to file criminal

**By CHRISTINA MARIE SABLAN**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Rep. Christina Marie Sablan (D-Saipan) is a member of the House of Representatives in the 22nd Legislature.*

charges. Enough evidence for you, senators, to convict.

In closing, I’d like to share with you some of the responses I received from members of the public to that question I posed, “What is a trial without prosecutors or evidence?” This is what people said: It’s a kangaroo court. A corrupt trial. A fixed trial. A farce. A slap in the face. A disservice to the people. A mockery. A travesty. A waste of taxpayer dollars. A huge betrayal. Not a trial, at all.

The eyes of the commonwealth are upon you, senators. How will you be judged, not just by our people today, but by history? Yet even at this juncture—I submit to you that it is not too late to do what’s right. Reset this trial. Revisit your rules. Allow the House prosecutors appointed by the speaker. Allow the impeachment record.

Above all, senators: allow the fair trial that the people deserve. Let your vote be according to your conscience and based on your analysis of the facts and all the evidence. There is still time. You can still do what’s right.

## Puerto Rico’s future status should not be a pawn in political gameplay

For Democrats who want to stop the right-wing assault on democracy, statehood for Puerto Rico can seem like a simple fix—one so enticing it may be easy to forget the will of the Puerto Rican people.

As a Boricua journalist who covers the insurrectionist right and comes from a pro-statehood family, I’d love to see Puerto Rico become a state. But Puerto Rico’s fate is not for any person statewide to dictate.

Congress is considering two bills that aim to change Puerto Rico’s status as a commonwealth, which has enabled decades of economic predation and devastation compounded by COVID-19 and natural disasters. Recent islandwide blackouts are just the latest example of neglect. The bills are the Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act and the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act. Only the latter, co-sponsored by New York Reps. Nydia Velázquez and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, is truly democratic.

The self-determination bill would create a “status convention” consisting of delegates elected by Puerto Ricans. The delegates would debate and define the implications of various status options—such as statehood, independence and free association (where a sovereign Puerto Rico would retain U.S. economic assistance and transfer agreed-upon authorities to the U.S., such as military defense)—in consultation with a congressional negotiating commission. The bill would fund strong education efforts on this issue and Puerto Ricans would then vote on the options in a referendum. The results would be binding on Congress. Ocasio-Cortez says the bill is “status agnostic.”

The statehood admission bill, on the other hand, aims to impose a status based on a nonbinding referendum from November 2020, when about 53% of Puerto Rican voters answered “yes” to the question: “Should Puerto Rico be immediately admitted into the Union as a state?” That referendum, however, has gotten valid criticism for excluding other status options and for low voter turnout amid political disillusionment. Several previous referendums have been flawed and inconclusive.

Puerto Ricans continue to lack clarity on key questions about statehood. For example, would Spanish remain the language of courts and schools? What new taxes would they have to pay, and starting when? What would happen to Puerto Rico’s national Olympic team? They have questions about what independence would look like. Would Puerto Ricans keep their U.S. citizen-

ship, as some experts argue they could?

For those who see Puerto Rico as a pawn, such details are afterthoughts.

“Puerto Ricans should not be used as a political chip for cleaning up a mess they didn’t create,” Erica González, director of Power 4 Puerto Rico, a coalition of Puerto Ricans who support decolonization in Puerto Rico, told me. “It’s not simply a matter of stitching a Caribbean country into the United States. People have to decolonize their attitudes.”

A century ago, in *Balzac v. Porto Rico*, the Supreme Court decided that Puerto Ricans—despite being U.S. citizens—lack the full and equal rights of citizens living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. It was one of the Insular Cases that restricted the constitutional rights for residents of certain territories who were deemed “alien races.” The constitutionality of those Insular Cases is being debated in Congress.

For generations, colonial elites profited from the archipelago at the expense of its people. For Puerto Ricans who’ve long been treated as second-class citizens, it’s not hard to imagine the U.S. treating Puerto Rico as a second-class state as well. Only the self-determination bill ensures a voice for the islands’ historically most marginalized communities such as Afro Puerto Ricans, whose concerns could be heard and addressed in the negotiations phase.

Members of Congress from California could play an important role in providing Puerto Ricans with a full say in their future, because they make up 20% of the House Committee on Natural Resources, which oversees Puerto Rico. More than 200,000 Puerto Ricans live in California, and many have been reaching out to members of the committee to share their thoughts.

Nicole Hernandez, co-founder of the Los Angeles-based Puerto Ricans in Action, told me her primary concern is, “How do we make a more livable world for Puerto Ricans and center the most vulnerable?”

Ricardo Ramírez, an Orange County volunteer for Puerto Ricans in Action, said he’s hoping to persuade progressive politicians who support equality and inclusion to throw their weight behind self-determination.

The Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act, by contrast, is championed by right-wing interests, such as ousted and disgraced former Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló; Resident

**By JEAN GUERRERO**  
Los Angeles Times



*Jean Guerrero is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.*

Commissioner Jenniffer González-Colón, who was a member of Latinos for Trump; the Fonalledas, a wealthy family in Puerto Rico that donates to Republican candidates; and José Fuentes Agostini, a former Trump campaign advisor who heads the Puerto Rico Statehood Council.

“The lobbying power of the Puerto Rico statehood movement is incredible,” Charles Venator, an associate professor of political science at University of Connecticut and author of “Hostages of Empire,” told me. Yet Puerto Rico status bills, which have been introduced more than 100 times over the years, have floundered. The latest ones will also likely stall in the Senate since most Republicans fear Puerto Rico statehood would tip the balance of power in favor of Democrats.

Whether the self-determination option—supported by dozens of organizations, Democratic senators and even Republican Sens. Roger Wicker and Richard M. Burr—can win support in the Senate is unclear.

José Bernardo Márquez, a pro-statehood member of Puerto Rico’s House of Representatives, told me self-determination is “the most just and democratic option.” President Joe Biden, he says, needs to deliver on his campaign promises for Puerto Ricans, including self-determination, because “very little of those promises have been kept except for those related to the flow of emergency funds and parity in access to programs.”

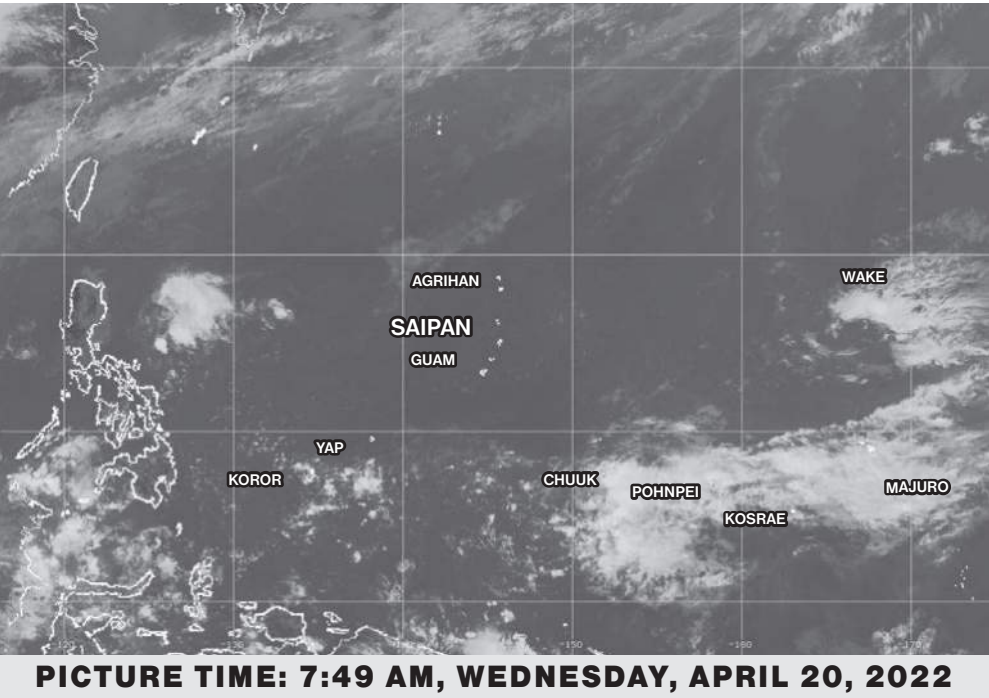
The office of House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md., has been exploring a potential compromise between proponents of the two bills. But the consensus should be hammered out by Puerto Ricans, not House Democrats.

If Democrats truly believe in dignity and equality for Puerto Ricans, it’s time to support their right to self-determination.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly sunny, with isolated showers. East wind 13 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.		Partly sunny, wit isolated showers. East northeast wind 13 to 16 mph.		Mostly cloudy, with A chance of showers.		Partly cloudy, with Scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy, with Scattered showers..	
88°	77°	88°	76°	87°	77°	87°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:49 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies and a spindly batch of early morning trade showers. Buoys and altimetry peg combined seas of 6 to 7 feet with most energy from the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp)and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	30 / 26 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:59 AM	18:32 PM
Friday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM
Saturday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM
Sunday	05:57 AM	18:32 PM
Monday	05:57 AM	18:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	09:37 PM	23:16 PM
Friday	-	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	00:18	11:44 PM	-
Sunday	01:14	12:46 PM	-
Monday	02:04	13:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	22 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy/Wind	27 / 19°F	
Hong Kong	AM Clouds/PM Sun	25 / 23 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	27 / 22 °F	
London	Mostly Sunny	17 / 9 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	19 / 12 °F	
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	35 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	AM Showers	16 / 8 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy/Wind	26 / 23 °F	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	15 / 10 °F	
Osaka	PM Rain	22 / 16 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	20 / 9 °F	
Busan	PM Showers	19 / 12 °F	
Rome	PM Rain	23 / 12 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	26 / 12 °F	
San Francisco	Rain	15 / 10 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	23 / 12 °F	
Tokyo	PM Rain	20 / 15 °F	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	20 / 11 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
05:06 AM	Low Tide	1.31	
09:48 AM	High Tide	1.90	
5:26 PM	Low Tide	-0.31	
-	High Tide	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5	
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7	
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam	
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam	
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam	
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam	
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6	
7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6	
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3	
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7	
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily		1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily		1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily						
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily		1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily		1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily		1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily		TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily		FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
ROTA TO GUAM					2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2102	8:30	8:45	Daily	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable		2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA					2104	10:30	10:45	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable		2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable		2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily		2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily		2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	
					2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable	



# Business

## Netflix shares drop 25% after service loses 200K subscribers

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Netflix suffered its first subscriber loss in more than a decade, causing its shares to plunge 25% in extended trading amid concerns that the pioneering streaming service may have already seen its best days.

The company's customer base fell by 200,000 subscribers during the January-March period, according to its quarterly earnings report released Tuesday. It's the first time that Netflix's subscribers have fallen since the streaming service became available throughout most of the world outside of China six years ago. The drop this year stemmed in part from Netflix's decision to withdraw from Russia to protest the war against Ukraine, resulting in a loss of 700,000 subscribers.

Netflix acknowledged its problems are deep rooted by projecting a loss of another 2 million subscribers during the April-June period.

If the stock drop extends into Wednesday's regular trading session, Netflix shares will have lost more than half of their value so far this year—wiping out about \$150 billion in shareholder wealth in less than four months.

Netflix is hoping to reverse the tide by taking steps it has previously resisted, including blocking the sharing of accounts and introducing a lower-priced—and ad-supported—version of its service.

Aptus Capital Advisors analyst David Wagner said it's

now clear that Netflix is grappling with an imposing challenge. "They are in no-(wo) man's land," Wagner wrote in a research note Tuesday.

Netflix absorbed its biggest blow since losing 800,000 subscribers in 2011—the result of unveiled plans to begin charging separately for its then-nascent streaming service, which had been bundled for free with its traditional DVD-by-mail service. The customer backlash to that move elicited an apology from Netflix CEO Reed Hastings for botching the execution of



This Aug. 13, 2020, photo shows a logo for Netflix on a remote control in Portland, Ore.

the spin-off.

The latest subscriber loss was far worse than a forecast by Netflix management for a conservative gain of 2.5 million subscribers. The news deepens troubles that have been mounting for the streaming service since a surge of signups from a captive audience during the pandemic began to slow.

It marks the fourth time in the last five quarters that Netflix's subscriber growth has fallen below the gains of the previous year, a malaise that has been magnified by stiffening competition from well-

funded rivals such as Apple and Walt Disney.

The setback follows the company's addition of 18.2 million subscribers in 2021, its weakest annual growth since 2016. That contrasted with an increase of 36 million subscribers during 2020 when people were corralled at home and starved for entertainment, which Netflix was able to quickly and easily provide with its stockpile of original programming.

Netflix has previously predicted that it will regain its momentum, but on Tuesday faced up to the issues bogging it down. "COVID created a lot of noise on how to read the situation," Hastings said in a video conference reviewing the latest numbers.

Among other things, Hastings confirmed Netflix will start crack down on the sharing of subscriber passwords that has enabled multiple households to access its service from a single account, with changes likely to roll out during the next year or so.

The Los Gatos, California, company estimated that about 100 million households worldwide are watching its service for free by using the account of a friend or another family member, including 30 million in the U.S. and Canada. "Those are over 100 million households already are choosing to view Netflix," Hastings said. "They love the service. We've just got to get paid at some degree for them."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Feds will appeal mask ruling only if mandate still needed

The Justice Department said Tuesday it will not appeal a federal district judge's ruling that ended the nation's federal mask mandate on public transit unless the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the requirement is still necessary. In a statement released a day after a Florida judge ended the sweeping mandate, which required face coverings on planes and trains and in transit hubs, Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said officials believe that the federal mask order was "a valid exercise of the authority Congress has given CDC to protect the public health." He said it was "an important

authority the Department will continue to work to preserve." Coley said the CDC had said it would continue to assess public health conditions, and if the agency determined a mandate was necessary for public health, the Justice Department would file an appeal.

#### Japan approves Novavax as 4th COVID vaccine amid new surge

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's health ministry on Tuesday formally approved Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine, a fourth foreign-developed tool to combat the infections as the country sees signs of a resurgence led by a subvariant of fast-spreading omicron. The ministry approval comes the

day after its experts panel endorsed use of Novavax's protein vaccine, which is designed with similar technology used to fight diseases such as the flu and hepatitis B, for the first two shots and a booster. Health Minister Shigeyuki Goto told reporters that Novavax product adds variety to the choices available and could appeal to those who are hesitant to use COVID-19 vaccines such as Pfizer's and Moderna's, which are designed with newer technologies. Shots using Novavax vaccine are expected to start as early as late May.

#### Disney World: Face masks optional for all areas of resort

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Walt Disney World has lifted

the last of its mask requirements, meaning face coverings will be optional for visitors at all locations on the central Florida Disney property. The rule change was posted Tuesday on Disney's website. Masks are still recommended, though not required, for guests who are not fully vaccinated in indoor locations and enclosed transportation. In February, the park made face coverings optional for fully vaccinated visitors in all indoor and outdoor locations, with the exception of enclosed transportation, such as the resort's monorail, buses and the resort's sky gondola. The new rule change removes the transportation exception, as well as the requirement to be vaccinated.

### Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting



May 4, 2022 1:50 PM  
IRP Conference Room  
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Bldg., Garapan, Saipan  
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666  
www.cnmizoning.com



#### AGENDA

##### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 05/04/2022 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 04/06/2022 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

##### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-11606** – Zhang Fei is proposing to construct a single-story structure measuring 80' (L) x 93'.7" (W) x 14' (H) for its Warehousing and General Wholesaling Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 398-1-New-1 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-11783** – SP Corporation is proposing to occupy the second floor of an existing two-story building measuring 80' (L) x 30' (W) for its Hotel/Motel/Guest House Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

##### C. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report

##### D. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

**Zoom Video Communications**  
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>  
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
SP CORPORATION

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SP Corporation is proposing to occupy the second floor of an existing two-story building measuring 80' (L) x 30' (W) for its Hotel/Motel/Guest House Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: May 4, 2022**

**Time: 5:00 pm**

**Place: IRP Conference Room, 2nd Fl., Horiguchi Bldg.**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, May 3, 2022. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Zhang Fei

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Zhang Fei is proposing to construct a single-story structure measuring 80' (L) x 93'.7" (W) x 14' (H) for its Warehousing and General Wholesaling Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 398-1-New-1 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

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**Time: 5:00 pm**

**Place: IRP Conference Room, 2nd Fl., Horiguchi Bldg.**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, May 3, 2022. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman



# Nation

## Massive flames force evacuation of hundreds of Arizona homes

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.** (AP)—Winds kicked up a towering wall of flames in rural northern Arizona on Tuesday, tearing through two-dozen structures and forcing the evacuation of more than 700 homes.

Coconino County declared an emergency Tuesday as the fast-moving wildfire outside of the Northern Arizona University college town of Flagstaff ballooned to over 9 square miles (23 square kilometers) Tuesday,

Sheriff Jim Driscoll said during a news conference.

County officials said 766 homes and 1,000 animals have been evacuated. More than 2,000 people live in the area, officials said.

A couple of hundred homes are still threatened as smoke billowed into the air in an all-too-familiar scene. Residents recalled scrambling to pack their bags and flee a dozen years ago during a much-larger wildfire

burned in the same area.

Driscoll said the sheriff's office got a call saying a man was trapped in his house, but that firefighters couldn't get to him. They do not know if he survived.

Flame lengths are as high as 100 feet (30 meters), the U.S. Forest Service said. Firefighters on Tuesday were up against 50 mph (80 kph) gusts that pushed the wildfire over the highway and weren't expected

to let up much this week, authorities said.

"It's blowing hard, and we have ash falling on the highway," said Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Jon Paxton.

About 200 firefighters were working the blaze that appeared to be moving northeast away from the more heavily populated areas of Flagstaff, toward Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument and volcanic cinders, said Coconino National

Forest spokesman Brady Smith.

"It's good in that it's not headed toward a very populated area, and it's headed toward less fuel," he said. "But depending on the intensity of the fire, fire can still move across cinders."

A top-level national fire management team is expected to take over later this week.

Fire and law enforcement agencies that were knocking on doors to warn of evacuations Tuesday were forced to pull out to avoid getting trapped by the flames, Paxton said. Arizona Public Service Co. shut off power to about 625 customers to keep firefighters safe, a spokeswoman said.

Red flag warnings blanketed much of Arizona and New Mexico on Tuesday, indicating conditions are ripe for wildfires. Residents in northern New Mexico's Mora and San Miguel counties were warned to be ready to evacuate as wildfires burned there amid dry, warm

and windy conditions.

The National Interagency Fire Center reported Tuesday that nearly 2,000 wildland firefighters and support personnel were assigned to more than a dozen large wildfires in the Southwestern, Southern and Rocky Mountain areas. Scientists say climate change has made the U.S. West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

The fire in Flagstaff was estimated at 100 acres (40 hectares) early Tuesday but quickly grew to 9.3 square miles (24 square kilometers), scorching timber and grass. It started Sunday afternoon 14 miles (22 kilometers) northeast of the city nestled in the largest contiguous Ponderosa pine forest in the U.S. Investigators don't know yet what caused it and have yet to corral any part of the blaze.

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### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Mississippi officers cleared in shooting deaths of man, baby

**BILOXI, Miss.** (AP)—A Mississippi grand jury has found no criminal fault by law enforcement officers in the shooting deaths of a Black man and his baby after a low-speed highway chase nearly a year ago. Eric Smith, 30, and his 3-month old son, La'Mello Parker, were killed after officers chased Smith on Interstate 10 last May 3. Authorities said Smith was suspected of killing two people, including his son's mother, in Baker, Louisiana, before driving into Mississippi. News outlets reported the Harrison County grand jury released its report Tuesday. Videos of the shooting showed law enforcement officers firing more than 20 rounds into Smith's car. Smith died at the scene, and the baby died a day later of a gunshot wound to the back, according to officials.

#### Killer of LA philanthropist gets 190-year prison term

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A parolee who murdered 81-year-old philanthropist Jacqueline Avant, the wife of a legendary music executive, during a burglary at her Beverly Hills home was sentenced Tuesday to 190 years in a California prison. Ariel Maynor, 30, pleaded guilty to murder and other charges in Los Angeles Superior Court last month and admitted he shot Avant in the back with an AR-15 style semi-automatic

rifle Dec. 1 and fired several rounds at a security guard as he fled. Avant was married to Clarence Avant, a Grammy winner known as the "Godfather of Black Music" for mentoring and helping the careers of artists including Bill Withers, Little Willie John, L.A. Reid, Babyface, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Maynor shot Jacqueline Avant when she surprised him after he broke into the couple's house during a burglary attempt in which he hoped to steal \$50,000, prosecutors said. Less than an hour after fleeing the scene, he broke into a home in the Hollywood Hills and then accidentally shot himself in the foot as he was leaving.

#### Man charged with setting fire at California Home Depot

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** (AP)—A man charged with setting a fire that gutted a Northern California Home Depot, prompted hundreds to flee and filled the sky with smoke was trying to cover up a theft of tools, authorities said Tuesday. Dyllin Jaycruz Gogue, 27, of San Jose, was arrested last Friday. He appeared in court Tuesday and was given a public defender and a June 1 court date to enter a plea. He was being held without bail. Gogue is accused of setting a fire that began in the lumber section of the Home Depot in South San Jose on April 9. He was trying to create a distraction while making off with a cart full of tools but drove off without taking them, prosecutors said.



# World

## Russia hits Ukrainian cities, pours more troops into war



AP

Member of security forces help an injured man following a Russian bombing of a factory in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, killing at least one person and injuring three others.

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Russia hurled its military might against Ukrainian cities and towns and poured more troops into the war, seeking to slice the country in two in a poten-

tially pivotal battle for control of the eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories.

The fighting unfolded along a boomerang-shaped front

hundreds of miles long in what is known as the Donbas. If successful, it would give President Vladimir Putin a victory following the failed attempt by Moscow's forces to storm the capital, Kyiv, and heavier-than-expected casualties.

In Mariupol, the devastated port city in the Donbas, Ukrainian troops said the Russian military dropped heavy bombs to flatten what was left of a sprawling steel plant—be-

lieved to be the defenders' last holdout—and hit a hospital where hundreds were staying.

The Ukrainian General Staff said Wednesday that Russia was continuing to mount offensives at various locations in the east as its forces probe for weak points in the Ukrainian lines. The General Staff said in a statement that defeating the last resistance in the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol remains Russia's top priority.

The eastern cities of Kharkiv and Kramatorsk came under deadly attack. Russia also said it struck areas around Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro west of the Donbas with missiles.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Moscow's forces bombarded numerous Ukrainian military sites, including troop concentrations and missile-warhead storage depots, in or near several cit-

ies or villages. Those claims could not be independently verified.

Both sides have described the assault that began Monday as a new phase of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Russian military was throwing everything it has into the battle, with most of its combat-ready forces now concentrated in Ukraine and just across the border in Russia.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Over 500 Rohingya flee Malaysian detention, 6 die on highway

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—More than 500 Rohingya refugees escaped from detention in Malaysia early Wednesday following a protest but most have been re-arrested, immigration officials said. The Immigration Department said 528 Rohingya fled after breaking a block door and barrier grill at a temporary detention center in northern Penang state. Police and other agencies were deployed and 362 detainees have been re-arrested, the department said in a statement. "The search for the remaining detainees is continuing," it said, without giving further details on what sparked the breakout.

#### Sri Lanka police open fire at protesters; 1 dead, 13 injured

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Sri Lankan police opened fire Tuesday at people protesting new fuel price increases, killing one and injuring 13 others, in the first shooting by security forces during weeks of demonstrations over the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

Fifteen police personnel were also admitted to a hospital with minor injuries after clashes with protesters. Police confirmed they shot at the

protesters in Rambukkana, 90 kilometers (55 miles) northeast of Colombo, the capital, and they declared a local curfew afterward. Police spokesman Nihal Talduwa said the demonstrators were blocking railway tracks and roads and had ignored police warnings to disperse. He said protesters also threw rocks at police.

#### Shanghai allows 4 million out of homes as virus rules ease

**BEIJING (AP)**—Shanghai allowed 4 million more people out of their homes Wednesday as coronavirus rules that shut down China's largest city eased and some factories resumed operation. A total of almost 12 million people in the city of 25 million are allowed to go outdoors following the first round of easing last week, health official Wu Ganyu said at a news conference. Wu said the virus was "under effective control" for the first time in some parts of the city. Shanghai shut down businesses and confined most of its population to their homes starting March 28 after a spike in infections. That led to complaints about lack of access to supplies of food and medicine. People in Shanghai who test positive but have no symptoms have been ordered into quarantine centers set up in exhibition halls and other public buildings.

### IN LOVING MEMORY

*Bernadine*  
**AYUYU**  
*Borja*  
**BENAVENTE**

**February 03, 1977 - March 27, 2022**

**In celebration of her new life, she now joins:**

**Grandparents/ In-laws:**

†Rosa Camacho Borja/ †Eugenio Arriola Borja  
†Maria Ayuyu Aldan/ †Antonio Tenorio Aldan  
†Santiago Blas Magofna/†Remedio Mareham Magofna  
†Ignacio Ada/+Josephine L. Ada  
†Fernando M Benavente/†Faustina S. Benavente

**Father-in-law:**

†Juan Sablan Benavente

**Niece/Nephew:**

†Tinalynn Ada Camacho  
†Jonathon Borja Namauleg  
†Ayanna Eusavia Borja  
†Eric Gino Benavente Santos  
†Avery Jade Dela Cruz Pinula  
†Kainoa Anthony Reyes

**Cousin:**

†Eusebio Camacho Borja Jr

**Bernadine's memories will live in the hearts of her:**

**Parents:**

Manuel Camacho Borja & Angelina Ayuyu Borja

**Mother-in-law:**

Lydia Lizama Ada

**Loving Husband:**

Fernando Ada Benavente

**Children, Spouse & Grand Children:**

Kaisha Janae Borja & Amante Andrada (Angelina II)  
Kernalina Jamanda Borja Benavente & Jostin-jon Cruz (Blake Eleonora)  
Kayliesha Jaeda Borja Benavente & Bryce Suicuico  
Kiarah Jaylene Borja Benavente  
Keeden Juan Borja Benavente  
Manuel Borja Benavente  
Renee Ann C. Benavente & Travis Wayne Lynch (Amar'e, Amir, Ashton Rain)  
Jonathan Fernando Benavente & Nicole Matyskiel (Karlee, Stella, & Willow)  
Jared Benavente

†Bernadine is also survived by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends

Last respects will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning at 07:30 a.m. Mass of Christian burial at 11:30 a.m. followed by the interment service at the Santuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman.

*The Family*





# Environment

## G3 Conservation Corps invites volunteers to Guam cleanups

Members of the second cohort of the Guam Green Growth (G3) Conservation Corps and community volunteers picked up and filled more than 135 bags of trash following three village cleanups last month. The community is invited to join the group's next cleanup efforts in Mongmong-Toto-Maite on April 22.

The G3 Conservation Corps is a workforce development program facilitated by the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the 36th Guam Legislature. It aims to prepare the community for the emerging green economy.

G3's second cohort held its first beautification activity, a roadside cleanup along Marine Corps Drive in Yigo, on March 18. The corps members also sorted recyclables—which included six bags of aluminum cans—with the Yigo Mayor's Office for its Guam Green Growth Waste and Recycling Bin Initiative.

"At each village where the Conservation Corps conducts the island beautification event, not only will we pick up trash at the village, but we will also be assisting with sorting recyclables and painting the G3 bins," said UOG Center for Island Sustainability coordinator Phil Cruz. "There will be preliminary training on site [for all volunteers] and another more comprehensive training for



Members of the second cohort of the Guam Green Growth Conservation Corps join volunteers and Yigo Mayor Anthony Sanchez at an island beautification cleanup in Yigo on March 18.

the Conservation Corps."

Yigo resident and G3 member Tre Starr said while he was disappointed to see the amount of trash at the site, he was excited to help with the cleanup.

"Working [with G3] gives me the opportunity to be able to get into the things that I want to do and be able to provide for myself and learn," Starr said. "With the knowledge that I gain from here, I am looking forward to applying it to my life so I can put myself in a better position to do the things that I want with farming and agriculture."

Yigo Mayor Anthony Sanchez commended the beautification program for raising

awareness and spurring the community to act on issues such as illegal dumping.

"It is a good program for getting people involved in what's going on around the island. It does not only affect one village—it affects the whole island," he said.

### Village cleanup schedule:

Mongmong-Toto-Maite  
 ■ 8am on Friday, April 22  
 ■ Meetup location to be announced

Mangilao  
 ■ 8am on Friday, April 29  
 ■ Meetup location to be announced

nounced

Sinajana

■ 8am on Friday, May 6

■ Meetup location to be announced

For updates and cleanup location announcements, follow Guam Green Growth on Facebook. For more information about G3, visit [www.guamgreengrowth.org](http://www.guamgreengrowth.org).

### About G3

Guam Green Growth, or G3, is the island's most comprehensive public-private partnership created to achieve a sustainable future. Aligned with the 17 U.N. Sustainable



Guam Green Growth Conservation Corps members pick up trash along Route 1 during their Yigo cleanup on March 18. The corps and volunteers filled 24 bags of trash.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



G3 Conservation Corps members pick up trash along Marine Drive in Yigo. The community is invited to join the group's next cleanup efforts in Mongmong-Toto-Maite on April 22.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Development Goals, G3 cultivates an ecosystem for transformative action to achieve a sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future for the island. G3 is facilitated by the

University of Guam in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of Guam and the 99 members of the G3 Working Group representing all sectors of our society. (UOG)

## Biden restores stricter environmental review of big projects

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Biden administration is restoring federal regulations that require rigorous environmental review of major infrastructure projects such as highways, pipelines and oil wells—including likely impacts on climate change and nearby communities. The longstanding reviews were scaled back by the Trump administration in a bid to fast-track projects and create jobs.

A rule finalized Tuesday will restore key provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, a bedrock environmental law designed to ensure community safeguards during reviews for a wide range of federal proposals, including roads, bridges and energy projects authorized in the \$1 trillion infrastructure law Biden signed last fall, the White House said.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality said the new rule, which takes effect in late May, should resolve challenges created by

Trump-era policy and restore public confidence during environmental reviews.

"Restoring these basic community safeguards will provide regulatory certainty, reduce conflict and help ensure that projects get built right the first time," said CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory. "Patching these holes in the environmental review process will help projects get built faster, be more resilient and provide greater benefits to people who live nearby."

Former President Donald Trump overhauled the environmental reviews in 2020 in a bid to accelerate projects he said would boost the economy and provide jobs.

Trump made slashing government regulations a hallmark of his presidency. He and his administration frequently expressed frustration at rules they said unnecessarily slowed approval for interstate oil and gas pipelines and other big projects. The rule change imposed in 2020 restricted the timelines

for environmental reviews and public comment and allowed federal officials to disregard a project's role in cumulative effects, such as climate change.

The new rule comes as the Supreme Court reinstated a separate Trump-era rule that curtails the power of states and Native American tribes to block pipelines and other energy projects that can pollute rivers, streams and other waterways.

In a decision that split the court 5-4 earlier this month, the justices agreed to halt a lower court judge's order throwing out the Trump rule. The decision does not interfere with the Biden administration's plan to rewrite the Environmental Protection Agency rule. Work on a revision has begun, but the administration has said a final rule is not expected until next spring. The Trump-era rule will remain in effect in the meantime.

Contrary to frequent assertions by Trump and others in his administration, Mallory said a more rigorous environmental

review will actually speed up completion of major projects, since they will be more likely to withstand a legal challenge by environmental groups or states. Many Trump-era environmental decisions were reversed or delayed by courts after findings they did not undergo sufficient analysis.

Environmental groups hailed the rule change, which they said restores bedrock environmental protections under NEPA, a 1970 law that requires the government to accept public comments and take environmental, economic and health impacts into consideration before approving any major project.

"NEPA plays a critical role in keeping our communities and our environment healthy and safe, and Donald Trump's attempts to weaken NEPA were clearly nothing more than a handout to corporate polluters," said Leslie Fields, the Sierra Club's national director of policy, advocacy and legal affairs.

## Birth of endangered Hawaiian monk seal caught on camera

**HONOLULU (AP)**—Images of a Hawaiian monk seal being born on an Oahu beach have been captured on camera.

An employee of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources shot video and photos of the pup emerging from the mother onto white sands last week.

"As soon as its (amniotic) sac burst, the little one starting wiggling around," Lesley Macpherson, who works for the department's Division of State Parks, said in a news release Tuesday. The mother monk seal checked on her pup by barking as the newborn flapped its flippers.

Hawaiian monk seals are an endangered species. There are only about 1,400 seals in the world. About three-quarters of this total live in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a remote string of small atolls northwest of Hawaii's populated islands. The

rest, about 300 seals, live in the Main Hawaiian Islands including Oahu and Maui.

The pup, named PO5, was one of two baby seals born on Oahu last week. Officials and volunteers will actively monitor the moms and their pups until weaning in about five to six weeks. After weaning, officials will aim to tag the pups and may apply temporary satellite transmitters to the seals to help keep track of them.

Three other pups born on Oahu this year died from complications related to birth, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Ryan Jenkinson, who leads the state's protected species program, said it's important for people to stay outside roped barriers set up to safeguard the mothers and their pups. He urged people to keep their dogs on leashes at all times.



# Life & Style

## Actor Ezra Miller arrested again on Hawaii's Big Island

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Ezra Miller was arrested on suspicion of assault early Tuesday, the second time the actor known for playing the Flash in "Justice League" films has been arrested in Hawaii in recent weeks.

Miller became irate after being asked to leave a get-together at a Big Island home and threw a chair, hitting a woman in the forehead, according to a news release from the Hawaii Police Department.

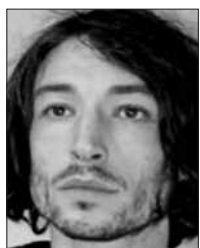
The woman refused treatment for a half-inch (1.3-centimeter) cut on her forehead,

police said.

Miller, described by police as a 29-year-old visitor from Vermont, was arrested during a traffic stop and released pending further investigation.

About twelve hours after Miller's arrest, the actor appeared via Zoom for a court hearing for an arrest last month at a Big Island karaoke bar.

Miller pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct and was ordered to pay a \$500



Miller

fine and stay away from Margarita Village in Hilo.

Miller was also charged with harassment after police said the actor grabbed a mic from a singing woman and lunged at a man playing darts.

Miller was aggravated by a rendition of the Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper ballad "Shallow," Hawaii Police Assistant Chief Kenneth Quiokocho said.

As part of a plea deal, prosecutors dropped the ha-

rassment charge, along with an unrelated traffic charge.

Miller received a traffic citation after police were called to a dispute in downtown Hilo last month where Miller was uncooperative, refused to leave the area and obstructed a sidewalk, Quiokocho said.

Miller's Hawaii attorney didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on the latest arrest. Another lawyer and a Miller representative also didn't immediately respond to messages requesting comment.

There was no mention of

the latest arrest during the court hearing.

Big Island attorney Francis Alcaín had requested Tuesday's court hearing, previously scheduled for next week, be moved up. Alcaín said in a court filing his client "has various time sensitive work obligations in California and/or New York," and needs an earlier hearing "to resolve this matter."

The day after Miller was released on \$500 bail for the karaoke bar arrest, a Big Island couple filed a petition for a temporary restraining order, claiming the actor

burst into their bedroom and threatened them. A judge dismissed the case last week after an attorney for the couple requested it.

William Dean, an attorney for the couple, declined to say why his clients no longer wanted to pursue a restraining order against Miller.

Judge M. Kanani Laubach applied Miller's bail to the \$500 fine, leaving a \$30 fee to pay.

Miller also has a key role in the third installment of the Harry Potter spinoff "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore."

## Johnny Depp on stand: Ex-wife Heard's allegations 'heinous'

**FAIRFAX, Va.** (AP)—Actor Johnny Depp told jurors Tuesday that he felt compelled to sue his ex-wife Amber Heard for libel out of an obsession for the truth after she accused him of domestic violence.

"My goal is the truth because it killed me that all these people I had met over the years ... that these people would think that I was a fraud," he said.

Depp flatly denied ever hitting Heard, calling the physical and sexual assault allegations against him disturbing, heinous and "not based in any species of truth."

"Nothing of the kind ever happened," Depp said in court.

Alluding to the fall his career has taken since Heard levied abuse allegations against him, the former "Pirates of the Caribbean" star said, "it's been six years of trying times. It's very strange when one day you're Cinderella, so to speak, and then in 0.6 seconds you're Quasimodo."

For the first hour-plus of testimony Tuesday, Depp gave

long, stream-of-consciousness answers to questions about his childhood and his early movie career, speaking in his signature deep baritone. After one long answer, he admitted: "I forgot what the original question was."

Indeed, he acknowledged his meandering style, particularly as it relates to his writing style. He mentioned his long friendship and collaborations with the late gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson, and said he sought to emulate a style that often incorporated brash language and embellishing thoughts.

He said that led him at times to write text messages that he now finds embarrassing, and he apologized to the jury for the vulgar language he used in text messages introduced as evidence to describe Heard.

"In the heat of the moment, in the heat of the pain I was feeling, I went to dark places," he said.

But he said he'd been waiting for six years to tell his side of the story after Heard filed



Actor Johnny Depp testifies during a hearing at the Fairfax County Circuit Court in Fairfax, Va., Tuesday April 19, 2022.

for divorce against him in 2016 and sought a restraining order against him.

The trial began more than a week ago, but, prior to Tuesday, jurors had only seen the Hollywood star sitting silently

with his team of lawyers as each side has tried to embarrass the other in a trial that Heard's lawyers accurately predicted would turn into a mudslinging soap opera.

After denying Heard's

abuse allegations, Depp spoke at length about a childhood in which physical abuse from his mother was "constant." When he became a father, Depp said, he made sure his children didn't experience that kind of upbringing.

Depp will continue his testimony Wednesday. In Tuesday's session, he testified primarily about the early years of his relationship with Heard, saying she seemed "too good to be true" at first.

"She was attentive," Depp said of the woman he married in 2015. "She was loving. She was smart. She was kind. She was funny. She was understanding ... We had many things in common, certain blues music ... literature."

He said there were little things, though, that gave him indications of a rocky relationship ahead. She became upset, he said, when he broke an established routine in which she took off his boots for him when he came home. And he said she was angry when he wouldn't go to bed when she was ready.

"I didn't understand why, as a 50-some-year-old man, I couldn't go to sleep when I wanted to," he said.

Depp, 58, said he was cognizant of the age difference between him and Heard, 35.

"I acknowledge the fact I was the old, craggy fogey and she was this beautiful, creature," he said.

But Depp said that within a year and a half, it was as if Heard had become another person.

So far, Depp's friends, family and employees have testified that Heard was the aggressor in the relationship, physically attacking him on multiple occasions. Heard's former personal assistant testified that Heard spit in her face in a fit of rage.

Heard's lawyers have said Depp physically and sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions, often in situations where he drank so much he later blacked out.

Depp said Heard's allegations of his substance abuse have been "grossly embellished" and that there have been no moments where he's been out of control.

## Aging husband wants to screen potential suitors for his wife

**DEAR ABBY:** I am an old man, married to a wonderful woman who does everything for me. I'm in poor health and don't expect to live much longer. My wife is a youthful 80. She's trim, pretty, active, hard-working, loving and sexy. She enjoys skiing, fishing, gardening, board games, puzzles etc. She is the most organized person I have ever known. She likes to cook and entertain and is excellent at both.

Although she has quite a few friends—widowed and otherwise—we don't know any men who would be acceptable as a future mate after I'm gone. She's financially independent and meticulous about keeping track of expenses. Neither of us is formally religious.

To be blunt, I can't imagine a better wife for someone special. I would like us to meet a man, probably in his 70s, preferably widowed, physically active, romantically inclined, energetic, capable with tools and household projects, not addicted to drugs or alcohol, financially independent and preferably politically conservative who would be a potential mate for her after I am gone.

We have discussed this to a limited extent, but she has expressed little interest in the subject. I can't imagine she won't experience a

renaissance after this albatross is off of her neck. She has more than earned it. If you have any suggestions, I would appreciate them.

**THANKFUL IN WASHINGTON**

**DEAR THANKFUL:** You are clearly a caring and protective husband who is deeply in love with and concerned for his wife. However, as much as you would like to screen the applicants to fill the vacancy that your death would create, there are some things a person must do for themselves. When you pass on, your wife may not feel ready to move on according to your timetable. Please let her make this decision for herself when the time is right.

**P.S. I am sorry you are not in better health, because it seems you and your wife have a strong and loving relationship that will not be easy to replace.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My grandson is in a relationship with a girl who manipulates him and abuses him emotionally. I told my grandson what she is doing, but he doesn't see it. Because of that, neither one of them is speaking to me.

My grandson was a caring, happy person until he met her.

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Now he's withdrawn. He is working, but she is not. They are struggling to make a life for themselves. When I ask how he's doing, he just says OK and nothing more. Is there anything I can do to make him see what she is doing to him?

**IT'S OBVIOUS IN IOWA**

**DEAR OBVIOUS:** No. You have done everything you can by trying to enlighten your grandson, who, it appears, "love" has blinded. Now it's time for you to accept that nothing will change until he wakes up and smells the coffee.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



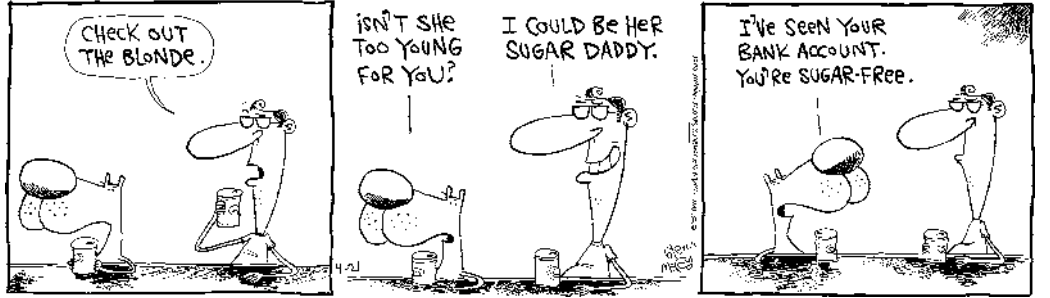
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Alum honorific

5 Invite

8 Stretches (out)

12 Sitarist

13 Shankar

14 Archie, to Harry

15 Trellis climber

16 Writer Kingsley

17 "— Love You" (Beatles hit)

18 Early Peruvian

20 Olympic skater Ito

22 Insincere, as a compliment

26 Yawning, maybe

29 Still, in verse

30 Poetic tribute

31 Fine

32 "Blue Bloods" ailer

33 Poker player's words

**DOWN**

34 Hindu

35 Large

36 Map

37 Returned

40 Raised

41 Fracas

45 Mine, in Marseille

47 Actress Salonga

49 Skin opening

50 "Somebody's Gotta Do It" host

51 Work unit

52 Probability

53 Green shade

54 Away from

55 Talk up

10 SASE, e.g.

11 Salt source

19 "Awesomeness!"

21 Pallid

23 Skewered entree

24 Actress Falco

25 Bender

26 "Non-sense!"

27 Gumbo veggie

28 Heavenly arcs

32 Pampers

33 Plant blemish

35 Spell-off

36 Hosp. section

38 Loses moisture

39 Maxim

42 Com-motion

43 Pakistani's language

44 Nuisance

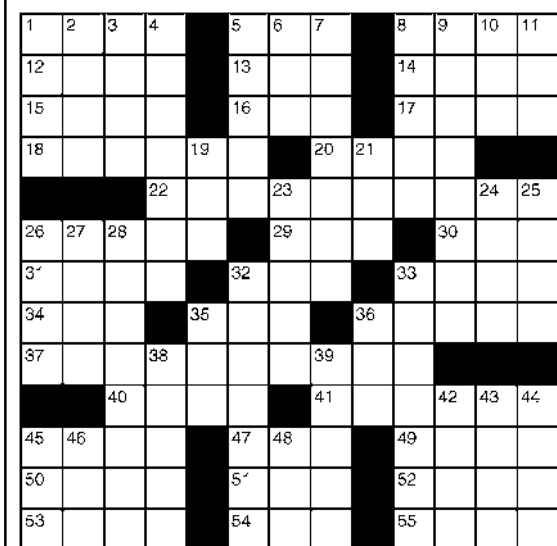
45 Branch

46 Cattle call

48 Hosp. areas

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 4-21**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Tony Romo, 42; Rob Riggle, 52; Andie MacDowell, 64; Iggy Pop, 75.

**Happy Birthday:** Share your thoughts and feelings. Honesty will help you reach your destination with no regrets. Physical fitness and personal growth will go part and parcel with achievement. Reach out to others, and work together toward a goal that soothes the soul and encourages you to use your creativity sensibly. Reach for the stars in all aspects of life. Your numbers are 5, 19, 23, 29, 35, 41, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep your beliefs, plans and personal life secret. Don't cause disruption or allow others to play with your feelings. Stick to your schedule, and work diligently toward your goal. Avoid meddling. Get things done. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Step up, take responsibility and refuse to let stubbornness stop you from reaching your goal. Share your thoughts, and you'll gain respect and support. A physical improvement will give you the incentive to share your intentions and feelings. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Look at the logistics before investing or purchasing something of value. The hype you receive will not live up to your expectations. Summon outside opinions to verify the authenticity of the information. Don't pay for someone's mistake. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Look, see and do. Follow through with your plans, and don't skip a beat. Timing

is everything, and knowing what you want and moving forward without hesitation will bring you to a place that makes you happy. Romance and self-improvement are favored. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Step aside and let others test the waters. Don't put your reputation, money or health at risk. Be intelligent and disciplined, and put yourself in a suitable position. Stabilize your life instead of jeopardizing your reputation or status. 3 stars

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Seize the moment, go after what you want. Use experience, knowledge and insight to outmaneuver anyone who gets in your way. Actions speak louder than words and will help you reach the winner's circle. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Keep your emotions in check when dealing with domestic issues. If you put pressure on someone, expect the same in return. Consider what you want to accomplish, and take a disciplined approach. Set a budget, and follow guidelines that encourage flexibility. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let anyone limit your plans. Stand tall and push your way forward. Embrace novel ideas and people heading in the same direction as you. Focus on partnerships, peace and love, and you will find a place of comfort. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't believe everything you hear. Take the time to get your facts straight and make decisions that are suitable. Patience and walking away from people and situations trying

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to entice you will pay off. ★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take pride in what you do, and forge ahead. Trust your instincts and your ability to get things done your way. Your actions will draw attention and bring you the accolades you desire. Personal gain is heading your way. Romance is encouraged. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep plugging away at your long-term goal, and you will make progress. Ignore temptation, and avoid being swept into someone else's dream. Live life your way, and you'll have no regrets. Trust and believe in you. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Speak up, make changes and follow your heart. Invest in your ideas, and put your energy into reaching your goal. Personal improvement is doable, and happiness will thrive if you are true to yourself and live life your way. ★★★★★

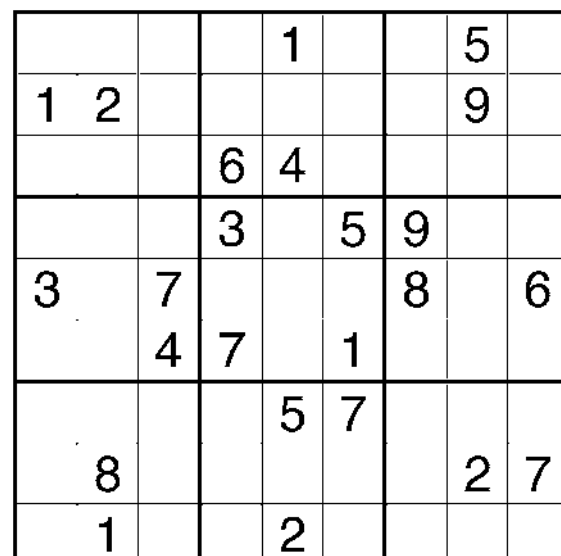
**Birthday Baby:** You are spirited, friendly and flexible. You are imaginative and responsible.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



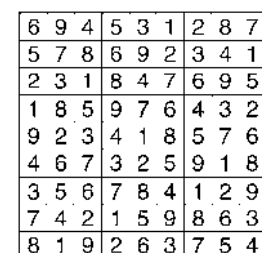
Difficulty Level ★★★

4/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BESTIES

Solution: 6 letters



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Bestie, BFF, Brother, Buddy, Call, Care, Childhood, Chummy, Close, Comfort, Committed, Companionship, Console, Dear, Dependable, Encouragement, Experiences, Friends, Honesty, Inseparable, Laughter, Lifelong, Love, Loyal, Mail, Match, Memory, Office, Pals, Respectful, Safe, Share, Sister, Special, Supportive, Tears, Unconditional

Yesterday's Answer: Drops

The NEW Treasury 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Butler scores 45, Heat defeat Hawks, 115-105, for 2-0 lead



**MIAMI (AP)**—Jimmy Butler walked off the floor when his night's work was complete, lifted his arms in the air and heard a sold-out arena serenade him with screams.

That didn't happen in the bubble two years ago, since nobody was there.

But Butler was every bit as good Tuesday night as he was during that bubble run — and the Miami Heat needed all his heroics.

Butler scored a playoff career-high 45 points, including a personal 7-0 run down the stretch to decide the game, and the Heat held off the Atlanta Hawks 115-105 in Game 2 of their Eastern Conference first-round series Tuesday night.

"We go as he goes," Heat guard Gabe Vincent said.

Butler was 15 of 25 from the floor, 11 for 12 from the line and 4 of 7 from 3-point range. As such, the top-seeded Heat are going to Atlanta with a 2-0 lead.

Tyler Herro scored 15 for Miami, while Max Strus scored 14 and Vincent added 11 for top-seeded Miami.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 19 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter for Atlanta. Trae Young got his scoring touch back — he had 25 points in Game 2, after being held to eight in Game 1 — but also had a career-worst 10 turnovers for the eighth-seeded Hawks.

"If the refs are going to let them be as physical as they are and not call fouls, it's going to be hard to really do anything anyways," Young said. DeAndre Hunter had 16 and John Collins finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Hawks.

Butler's previous playoff best was 40, done twice, both in the bubble when the Heat made the 2020 NBA Finals. The Heat needed all of his heroics then, and they needed them all on Tuesday as well.

Bogdanovic's 3-pointer with 3:15 left got Atlanta within 104-101.

From there, it was all Butler. "Big-time basketball from a big-time basketball player, one of the best two-way players in the game," Heat guard Kyle Lowry said.

Butler had a dunk, a 3-pointer and another dunk — all in the span of 56 seconds — to turn things from in doubt to locked down, putting Miami up 10 with 1:20 remaining and ensuring the Heat would finish off the win.

"Just staying aggressive," Butler said. "Taking what the defense gives me."

As would be expected in a playoff series, pleasantries began being exchanged with



Miami Heat guard Max Strus, left, and forward Jimmy Butler (22) motion down the court for a Heat possession and Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young loses control of the ball during the first half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in Miami.

more regularity. The first half featured 16 fouls by Atlanta and 14 by Miami — a season-high for the Hawks, one off the season-high for the Heat, and those 30 personals didn't even include a double technical that Lowry and Hunter got for getting face-to-face.

Young picked up a technical for arguing a foul against him late in the third as well, the capper to a period where the Heat went from barely ahead to holders of a double-digit lead going into the final 12 minutes. He played the entire third quarter, but managed only two shots in that span — making both — and didn't get to the foul line, while committing five turnovers in that period alone.

"I think the difference in the game tonight was turnovers," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said. "You can't have 19 turnovers in a playoff game and expect to win games. They scored 21 points off of our turnovers. A lot of those came in transition ... and I thought that was the difference."

## Pelicans 125, Suns 115

In Phoenix, Brandon Ingram's rolling, Devin Booker's hurting and the New Orleans Pelicans made it clear that this first-round playoff series will be a fight for the top-seeded Phoenix Suns.

Ingram had a fantastic all-around game with 37 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists to lead the Pelicans over the Suns 125-114 in Game 2 on Tuesday, pulling off the impressive road win to tie the series at 1-all and earn their first postseason victory since 2018.

As the final buzzer sounded, Pelicans forward Larry Nance Jr. set the ball down on the court and sprinted off the court into the tunnel with his teammates.

Game 3 is on Friday in New Orleans.

"Good win, let's go," Nance said. "Let's go home."

Not only did the Suns lose the game, but they're unsure about the health status of Booker, the All-Star guard who was spectacular in the first half with 31 points before leaving with right hamstring tightness in the third quarter.

The Suns — who led the NBA with a franchise-record 64 wins during the regular season — trailed 77-74 when he departed.

There wasn't much of an update on Booker's health or if the injury might keep him out beyond Tuesday. Suns guard Chris Paul said the injury was no excuse for the loss.

"We've got guys that are more than capable of stepping up," Paul said. "Book was killing. He was having a big-time game, but it is what it is."

Phoenix kept the game close without its leading scor-

er and even took a lead early in the fourth, but the Pelicans rallied, getting big 3s from Jose Alvarado, CJ McCollum and Ingram to take an advantage they wouldn't relinquish.

"Everything was flowing," Ingram said. "Everybody was effective on the floor, all five. All five made something happen, whether it was offensively or defensively. We were really connected today."

McCollum finished with 23 points. Ingram added tough back-to-back jumpers in the closing minutes to keep a final Suns rally at bay.

"This is one of his best and it was on a big stage," Pelicans coach Willie Green said. "I'm proud of that young man. He works his tail off, he's a great teammate, high character, high IQ and he put it on display tonight."

Ingram finished 13 of 21 shooting from the field. The Pelicans shot 17 of 30 (57%) from 3-point range.

## Grizzlies 124, Timberwolves 96

In Memphis, Tenn., the Memphis Grizzlies responded to losing their first game as a

No. 2 seed by getting back to how they play. The result? The largest margin of victory in franchise history in a playoff game and a near triple-double by Ja Morant.

The All-Star point guard scored 23 points, handed out 10 assists and grabbed nine rebounds as the Grizzlies looked much more like the team that posted the NBA's second-best record, routing the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-96 on Tuesday night to even up their first-round Western Conference series at 1 apiece.

Morant went to the bench with 4:40 left to a huge ovation and teammates telling him how close he was to a triple-double.

"It was good to get that win," Morant said. "Obviously, you know, if you get a triple-double, it's hard to do it in this league, so that's special as well. But the win is the important thing, and we got that."

Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said Morant showed great balance along with the bench outscoring Minnesota 60-43 and defense fueling the offense.

"This is our recipe ...," Jen-

kins said. "This is the more the style that we got to play."

Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. each added 16 with Jackson hitting 4 of 7 from 3-point range. Seven Grizzlies finished in double figures with Brandon Clarke, Xavier Tillman Sr. and Ziaire Williams each having 13. Tyus Jones added 10.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Minneapolis.

Anthony Edwards, who scored 36 points in his playoff debut in Game 1, led Minnesota with 20. All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns had 15 points and 11 rebounds. Naz Reid and Taurean Prince had 12 each off the bench, and D'Angelo Russell added 11.

"It shows just how physical and locked in you've got to be every single night regardless of the opponent," Towns said. "A small lapse, mental, and you see what the game comes out to be in the playoffs."

The Timberwolves dominated the series opener after scoring a franchise-record 41 points in the first quarter.

This time, officials stayed very busy calling 20 fouls in a very long first quarter. That kept the NBA's top scoring teams in the regular season from getting into any rhythm as they combined to shoot 33 free throws.

Foul trouble forced Jenkins to turn to Tillman who didn't play in Game 1, and he turned in the best playoff game of his young career.

The Grizzlies grabbed their biggest lead of this short series at 30-23 on a floater by Jones with 2:11 left, and they led 33-32 after the first quarter when Morant's long buzzer-beater attempt hit off the rim and off.

"Then our offense just dried up. Our shot selection in the second quarter basically started the avalanche," said Minnesota coach Chris Finch, who added that the Grizzlies also started controlling the glass. "That's really where the game was won."

The Grizzlies shot 48% from the floor compared to 40% for Minnesota. Both teams made 11 3s, a big difference from the series opener when Minnesota knocked down 16 of 41 compared to 7 of 27 for Memphis.

# Celtics' Marcus Smart is NBA defensive player of the year

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Boston's Marcus Smart is the first guard in over a quarter-century to win the NBA defensive player of the year award.

NBA officials announced the award on Monday. The last guard to win this honor was Seattle's Gary Payton in 1995-96.

Smart helped the Celtics lead the NBA in defensive rating and scoring defense

(104.6) while holding opponents to a league-low field-goal percentage (.434) and 3-point percentage (.339). The 28-year-old ranked seventh in the NBA in steals per game (1.68) and tied for sixth in total steals (119).

Smart received 257 total points and earned 37 first-place votes from a panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters. Phoenix Suns forward

Mikal Bridges finished second with 202 points and 22 first-place votes.

Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, who had won the award in 2018, 2019 and 2021, finished third with 136 points and 12 first-place votes.

Smart, who started each of the 71 regular-season games he played, tied for fourth in loose balls recovered (75) and tied for 10th in deflec-

tions (106) and charges drawn (16). He had a career-high 3.2 defensive rebounds per game.

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo won defensive player of the year in 2020.

Players received five points for each first-place vote, three for each second-place vote and one for each third-place vote.



# Scherzer meets fans with gem, Mets sweep twinbill vs Giants



**N E W  
Y O R K**  
(AP)—The

way Max Scherzer stalked around the end of the New York Mets' dugout during a no-hit bid Tuesday night struck manager Buck Showalter as practically equine.

"He's like a colt bouncing around," Showalter said. "Reminds me of, you ever see those wild horses running free? That's him."

So far, the Mets have no regrets about betting on this particular pony.

Scherzer pitched no-hit ball into the sixth inning of his anticipated home debut and New York rode its \$130 million ace to a 3-1 victory over the San Francisco Giants for a double-header sweep.

Francisco Lindor was the hero in the opener, delivering a game-ending single in the 10th inning of a 5-4 victory. That came moments after Pete Alonso's stretch at first base saved Lindor's off-target throw and kept the game tied.

Scherzer (3-0) hardly needed any help, combining with two relievers on a two-hitter.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner was overpowering for 5 2/3 innings before seeming to hit a wall. His velocity dipped and control wavered over consecutive walks to Mike Yastrzemski and Brandon Belt, and then Darin Ruf ripped an RBI single for San Francisco's first hit.

The 37-year-old Scherzer, slowed late in spring training by a balky right hamstring, finished out the sixth and then tossed a 1-2-3 seventh. He struck out 10 on a season-high 102 pitches, walking three in his first turn before his new home fans after signing a three-year deal in November.

"I knew I needed to control my pitch count tonight so I could pitch as deep as possible because of the doubleheader," Scherzer said.

## Mets 5, Giants 4, game 1

In New York, Francisco Lindor lined a walk-off single in the 10th after a big stretch by Pete Alonso bailed him out in the top of the inning, and New York beat San Francisco.

Lindor's single to center against Jarlin García (1-1) scored automatic runner Brandon Nimmo from third.

A half-inning earlier, Lindor's throw on Thairo Estrada's grounder pulled Alonso off the bag at first base, apparently allowing Brandon Belt to score. Replays showed Alonso just barely held the base with his right foot, and umpires overruled the safe call. That kept Adam Ottavino (1-0) in line for the win.



New York Mets starting pitcher Max Scherzer (21) delivers the ball to the San Francisco Giants during the second inning of the second game of a baseball double-header Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in New York.

## Braves 3, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Max Fried looked right at home, opening with five perfect innings while pitching Atlanta past Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles-area native, in his sixth career start at Dodger Stadium including playoff games, did not allow a baserunner until Hanser Alberto led off the sixth with a line-drive single.

In seven scoreless innings of work, Fried (1-2) gave up two hits with eight strikeouts and no walks. Kenley Jansen, the Dodgers' longtime closer, picked up his third save of the season for the Braves with a perfect ninth.

Travis d'Arnaud jumpstarted the Atlanta offense with a home run in the second to help end the Dodgers' seven-game winning streak — and their 20-game regular-season winning streak at home that started in August last year.

Walker Buehler (1-1) gave up three runs and eight hits in five innings, losing the matchup of dueling aces.

## Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 1, game 1

In Washington, Victor Robles had Washington's first hit, an RBI double off Madison Bumgarner with two outs in the fifth inning, and the Nationals beat Arizona in the opener of a doubleheader.

The announced crowd was 9,261, the fewest for a home game without pandemic restrictions since the team moved to Washington from Montreal for the 2005 season.

Josiah Gray (2-1) went 5 1/3 innings for Washington, allowing just one run and three hits with two walks and eight strikeouts against Arizona's struggling lineup.

Bumgarner (0-1) gave up two unearned runs and two hits in his five innings.

## Nationals 1, Diamondbacks 0, game 2

In Washington, Joan Adon became the first Washington starter to finish six innings in 2022, throwing 6 1/3 scoreless as the Nationals swept a doubleheader.

Adon (1-2), a 23-year-old right-hander making his fourth appearance in the majors, gave up three hits and walked two while striking out five.

Victor Robles singled to lead off the sixth against Arizona spot starter Tyler Gilbert (0-1) before coming around to score the lone run on a double by César Hernández.

In the ninth, Tanner Rainey put the first three batters aboard via a walk and two singles, then retired the next three for his third save.

## Yankees 4, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Gerrit Cole lasted a career-low 1 2/3 innings, and Clarke Schmidt combined with four relievers to pitch three-hit shutout ball and lead New York past Detroit.

Cole matched his career high of five walks and allowed two runs and one hit — a single by Detroit's Miguel Cabrera, his 2,996th hit.

New York's bullpen got 22 outs without allowing a run. Schmidt (1-2) allowed two hits in 3 1/3 innings for his first major league win.

Wandy Peralta got five outs, Clay Holmes two and Miguel Castro and Aroldis Chapman three each, with Chapman pitching a perfect ninth for his second save.

Tigers starter Tyler Alexander (0-1) gave up two unearned runs, one hit and two

walks in one inning.

## Brewers 5, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Corbin Burnes struck out 10 and allowed two runs in seven innings as Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

The Brewers had a season-low three hits but won their third straight. The Pirates had a season-low four hits.

Burnes (1-0) gave up four hits and didn't walk anybody. Josh Hader worked the ninth for his fifth save.

JT Brubaker (0-2) allowed two hits and four runs, two earned, in five innings.

## Rockies 6, Phillies 5

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning and Colorado beat Philadelphia.

Rockies starter Kyle Freeland agreed to a \$64.5 million, five-year contract with his hometown team earlier in the day and left with the lead after five innings. He gave up two runs on six hits and struck out three.

Colorado rallied from a 4-3 deficit in the seventh. Phillies reliever Seranthony Domínguez (1-1) issued a two-out walk to Charlie Blackmon and gave up a single to Kris Bryant. Cron connected off Jeurys Familia to put the Rockies back in front with his sixth home run of the season.

Justin Lawrence (1-0) got the win and Daniel Bard worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

## Rays 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Wander Franco hit his first homer of the season, a two-run drive to left-center in the third inning, and Tampa Bay held on to beat Chicago.

Cubs rookie Seiya Suzuki drew three walks but his nine-game hitting streak

came to an end, leaving him tied with Akinori Iwamura for the longest hitting streak by a Japanese-born player to start a career.

Opener Matt Wisler got the first five outs for the Rays and Josh Fleming (2-1) worked the next 3 1/3 innings, allowing three runs on four hits. Andrew Kittredge, the sixth Rays pitcher, retired the final six Chicago batters for his second save.

Justin Steele (1-1) allowed four runs in 2 2/3 innings.

## Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

In Boston, Connor Wong drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and Boston beat Tampa Bay despite getting held to three hits.

Kiké Hernández and Trevor Story had back-to-back doubles in the third for Boston.

Hansel Robles (1-0) threw 1 2/3 hitless innings in relief. Garrett Whitlock pitched a perfect ninth for his first save of the season.

Wong lofted a flyball to right field against right-hander Yimi García (0-1) that scored Bobby Dalbec, who opened the inning by reaching on an error by shortstop Bo Bichette.

## Royals 4, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez homered twice and Hunter Dozier hit another go-ahead home run to lift Kansas City over Minnesota.

Perez homered in the fourth off Chris Archer and tied the score 3-3 in the sixth when he went deep against Tyler Duffey (0-2). Out out later, Dozier hit a tiebreaking home run.

Amir Garrett (1-0) pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings, combining with four other pitchers for 4 2/3 innings of scoreless, one-hit relief. Josh Staumont pitched a perfect ninth

for his second save in as many games.

## Padres 6, Reds 2

In San Diego, Manny Machado homered for the second consecutive game, Joe Musgrove pitched into the seventh inning and San Diego handed Cincinnati its eighth straight loss.

Musgrove (2-0) held the Reds to two runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

Cincinnati starter Reiver Sanmartin (0-2) allowed five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out four and walked one.

## Mariners 6, Rangers 2

In Seattle, Robbie Ray pitched six strong innings to win his home debut, Eugenio Suárez hit a three-run home run in the first, and Seattle beat Texas.

Ray (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits and struck out four.

Suárez took advantage of first-inning struggles by Texas starter Jon Gray (0-1), who gave up four runs and three hits in five innings.

## Cardinals 5, Marlins 1

In Miami, Albert Pujols had two hits and scored twice as St. Louis beat Miami.

Adam Wainwright (2-1) threw 5 2/3 effective innings, allowing one run on five hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

Tommy Edman tripled, singled and drove in two runs for the Cardinals.

Marlins' starter Jesús Luzardo (0-1) allowed five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

## Angels 7, Astros 2

In Houston, Jo Adell tied a career high with three hits and Kurt Suzuki and Brandon Marsh drove in two runs each as Los Angeles beat Houston.

Los Angeles starter Patrick Sandoval allowed four hits with an unearned run in four innings. Oliver Ortega (1-1) walked one in two scoreless innings.

Framber Valdez (1-1) was tagged for six runs, eight hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings.

## Athletics 2, Orioles 1

In Oakland, Calif., Seth Brown hit a two-run double in the sixth inning. Cristian Pache made another spectacular defensive play in center field and Oakland edged Baltimore before its smallest home crowd in 42 years.

A day after their lowest attendance for a home opener without coronavirus restrictions in more than 30 years, the A's drew 3,748 — the smallest with fans at the Coliseum since 3,180 attended a 6-4 loss to the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 25, 1980.



# Top swimmers impress in Tsunami, SSC mutual time trial

MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The top swimmers of Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Saipan Swim Club gave a good account of themselves during the mutual time trial held by the two clubs last week Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool in San Antonio.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Isaiah Aleksenko and Maria Guerrero really proved their worth in the non-competitive event.

He said Aleksenko's 200m butterfly's U.S. time standard grade is far over AAAA standard and was an amazing swim.

Meanwhile, the Tsunami Saipan mentor said while CNMI girls top swimmer Maria Batallones was off-island her namesake had her opportunity to shine during the mutual time trial.

"Another Maria (Guerrero) sparked! She is still 10 years old but very fast. So,



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Saipan Swim Club held their second mutual time trial last April 11 and 14 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool in San Antonio.

I did a swim up for her and make her swim in the 11-and-over division with great results," he said.

Kimura said Tsunami Saipan swimmers' goals in the mutual time trial was to improve in every which way.

"Our target on this trial was to update personal best time and get higher time standard grade than last time. Goals do not exist for us because if we reach a goal, we set a new goal and it's never ending," he said.

SSC coach Richard Sikkel, for his part, said he's most proud about the achievements of his youngest members.

"I am proud of the 8-and-under, this being the first time trial for all of them, on how well they did in dealing with the nerves and excitement."

Sikkel added that some of his swimmers really swam well during the April mutual time trial.

"Declan Spaeth stood out with a great 25m freestyle. All other swimmers made

solid improvements on their times. A few standouts are Sean Park who got some nice gains in his breast stroke. Zeno Iwami, Manuel Magboo, Nagi Tenorio, and Piper Raho also obliterated their previous times. Michael Miller also put in very solid swims and with pool practice starting, I am expecting vast improvements over the next month."

Tsunami Saipan and SSC will hold their third mutual time trial in May 13 and 14. May's event will be used as

a season-ending event, as both clubs will resume training and their mutual meets in September.

Tsunami Saipan and SSC

would like to thank Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Tan Holdings for helping them stage their series of mutual time trials.

## Nomination for NMIBF board directors now open

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is now accepting nominations for directors of the NMIBF board.

Nomination letter can be submitted through email with the information including the following: name of the person or organization making the nomination and name of the nominee and his/her brief personal information. Nomination is open to the public and written nomination can also be submitted personally at the NMIBF Annual General Assembly on April 26 at 6pm at the Northern Marianas Conference Room at the Olea Sports Complex.

Nine individuals will make up the NMIBF board and they must

be elected by the NMIBF club-members at the general assembly next week. Nominees must also be present at the assembly.

Elected board directors will

either serve a two-year or four-year term and their responsibilities would include the following: attending regular board meetings and leading or taking part in the formation of various committees, making policies, and participating in activities of the federation.

To submit nominations, please send to nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com or bring a copy of your nomination letter at the NMIBF Annual General Assembly. (PR)



## TARKONG

From Page 20

goes to Jack and this goes to all the people with disabilities and people with special needs who basically want to be able to do what we can. We take it for granted that we have 10 fingers and you can basically read, write, walk, see, smell, and hear. There are a lot of people in the world who basically want to live a normal life and do what you do. Because of their disabilities it's difficult for them to live their lives and let alone compete in sports," said Tarkong.

Sapong won the 2021 NMSA Female Athlete of the Year after she ran a season-best 13.42 seconds in the women's 100m event of the Northern Marianas Athletics' Track and Field Open Meet last June. It marked her first competition in more than a year since most regional events in athletics have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Although she trains six times a week, she still finds time to mentor NMA's 18-and-under developmental squad, helping them improve their skills. She enjoys spending her time coaching and guiding youth athletes. If she is not on the track competing, Sapong also volunteers her time officiating," NMA wrote when the federation nominated her for the June Female Athlete of the Month award.

Sapong said winning the annual honor was a big surprise for her since the COVID-19 pandemic not only cancelled a lot of athletics events on-island and off-island she could've competed in but also

really did a number on the way she trained.

"I am appreciative for the nomination and very grateful to be on the CNMI National Athletics Team. Last year was full of uncertainty. My training regimen was turned upside down but being surrounded by amazing athletes and coaches helped me push through even on my toughest days," said the wireless inventory assistant at IT&E.

For winning the award, Tarkong and Sapong each received an Apple Watch Series 7 and a gift certificate worth \$500 at I-Shop courtesy of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

### Student athlete awardees

A couple of multi-sport athletes were named 2021 NMSA Student Athlete of the Year after Isaiah Aleksenko and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez were also honored during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet.

Aleksenko was the only two-time monthly winner among the nominees having won in January and July 2021. The Marianas High School student won in January for finishing second in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon, while he took the plum in July for topping the first and second installments of the 1,500m event of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series.

He dedicated his 2021 NMSA Male Student Athlete of the Year plum to his mother, Yulia, and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center Hiroyuki Kimura.

"I want to dedicate this win to my mom because no mat-

ter what she still pushed me to go forward and never give up, and always gave me hope to do more. I also want to dedicate this win to my coach Hiro. The reason why I dedicate this win to my coach is because no matter the struggle, he still tries his best to find us competition and pool to swim at. He also find ways to train us during COVID-19. I really wish that my coach got coach of the year because he never gave up and always pushed us to work harder, without my mom and my coach, this wouldn't be possible," he said.

Like Aleksenko, Chavez took home the 2021 NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year for her feat in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon in January 2021. The multi-sport athlete outpaced 14 female adults and placed sixth overall among 27 participants by clocking in at 1:07:53.

The Saipan International School student said winning the annual awards was really a big surprise and at the same time a true blessing.

"Ever since I was young, I've always dreamed about this moment just watching other people receive this reward. This motivated me to work hard and try to achieve this goal. It's one of my biggest dreams and accomplishments and here I am today proud of myself for all the hard work I've done to achieve this," she said.

Chavez dedicated the award to her family who has supported every step of her athletic journey.

"I want to dedicate this award to my family for waking up early to drop me to the [Olea track and field] to run or swim or attend competi-

tion and games. I'd also like to dedicate this to my friends for always supporting me and believing in me. As well as to my competitors for always pushing to do my best and lastly my supporters for always acknowledging my accomplishments and being there for me."

Both Aleksenko and Chavez were earlier named to the CNMI National Triathlon Team for this year's Mini Games. Chavez is also part of the CNMI National Athletics Team where she is expected to represent the Commonwealth in the aquathlon event. Like the athlete of the year awardees, the two also got Apple Watch Series 7 and a gift certificate worth \$500 at I-Shop each.

### Coach of the year

Dr. Ron Snyder, CNMI National Athletics coach for this year's Mini Games, got the nod for 2021 NMSA Coach of the Year. The 55-year-old native of Auburn, New York was bestowed the award for his nearly 30 years' work coaching students in track and field.

Snyder currently coaches Saipan International School, which he was able to transform to an athletics powerhouse. He has also coached several teams in international competitions, representing the CNMI in Japan, Guam, and Australia.

His athletes have also been named all-stars and his SIS team brought home the first ever trophy for the CNMI at the Asia Pacific XC Championships in 2019. In addition to his work with youth athletics, Snyder was among the founding members of Run Saipan last year, putting together com-

munity events for the island's residents at a time when other sports opportunities remained closed due to COVID-19.

Snyder has also coached adult athletes in the Micronesian Regional Championships, Oceania 10K Championships, and now is the head coach of Team CNMI and getting athletes ready for the Oceania Athletics Championships, the Pacific Mini Games, and the Micronesian Games.

He was also nominated on the Oceania Athletics Coaches Commission and constantly strives to improve himself for his athletes, having successfully completed both the World Athletics Mid/Long Distance level 2 coaching course and the level 1 Lecturer's course.

Snyder was obviously in a state of semi-shock after winning the coach of the year award as he was a bit lost for words when he accepted the wooden replica of the latte stone trophy.

"I didn't expect this tonight so I don't have something nice and long prepared, but you're probably OK with that given the time. I'd like to thank NMA for all the support in sending me and working out events. I definitely would like to thank my wife even though she told me not to... for being supportive if I have to go up at 4am to set up meets and she had to make her own coffee. Denise Myers I'd like to thank her tonight too. She told me everybody here will have a tie on tonight. So, thanks Denise for making me standout on that one."

On a more serious note, he said he became a coach not for personal glory but to

coach the youth.

"I would like to thank the athletes that I coached over the years because that's really the reason I've done it. I couldn't have done it without them. They're the ones that inspired me and they were the ones that made me happy about the relationships I've formed and I'm thrilled with their successes and that's been my major motivation for it," he said.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	5	.545	
New York	6	5	.545	—
Toronto	6	5	.545	—
Tampa Bay	6	6	.500	½
Baltimore	3	8	.273	3

##### Central Division

Chicago	6	3	.667	
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2
Kansas City	4	5	.444	2
Detroit	4	6	.400	2½
Minnesota	4	7	.364	3

##### West Division

Los Angeles	7	5	.583	—
Oakland	7	5	.583	—
Houston	6	5	.545	½
Seattle	6	5	.545	½
Texas	2	8	.200	4

#### NAITONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

New York	9	3	.750	
Atlanta	6	7	.462	3½
Washington	6	7	.462	3½
Miami	4	6	.400	4
Philadelphia	4	8	.333	5

##### Central Division

St. Louis	6	3	.667	
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	½
Chicago	6	5	.545	1
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	2
Cincinnati	2	10	.167	5½

##### West Division

Colorado	8	3	.727	—
Los Angeles	8	3	.727	—
San Francisco	7	4	.636	1
San Diego	8	5	.615	1
Arizona	3	8	.273	5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Butler scores 45,  
Heat defeat Hawks  
115-105 for 2-0  
lead

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Top swimmers  
impress in Tsunami,  
SSC mutual time  
trial

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## TARKONG, SAPONG NAMED ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

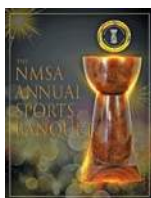


MARK RABAGO

Outrigger canoe's Jason Tarkong, left, and athletics' Zarinae Sapong are all smiles after winning the Male Athlete of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year awards, respectively, during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet Tuesday evening at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In a year when competing in sports was made more difficult by COVID-19, Jason Tarkong and Zarinae Sapong were acknowledged for their athletic feats amidst the pandemic after being bestowed the Male Athlete of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year awards, respectively, during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet Tuesday evening at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.



Tarkong, who will represent the CNMI in the outrigger canoe competition of this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, won the coveted annual award after topping the 6.5-mile long-distance V1 race held from Kilili Beach to Garapan Fishing Base and back last July.

"Winning athlete of the year

and winning that race that I won last year I just happened to be the best one that day so it was a great honor to just be able to compete," said the Marshall Services Division officer.

Aside from winning the tough and highly competitive V1 race, the head coach for

» **Aleksenko, Chavez are student athletes of the year**  
» **Athletics' Snyder is top coach**

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club also has an extensive list of sports accomplishments, including being named part of the NMSA Team of the Month with Marianas Outrigger Club for May 2021, representing the CNMI and winning a gold medal in the 1,500m sprints at the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, and again with

Team CNMI winning a silver medal for the 12-mile long distance race at the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

The 55-year-old dedicated his NMSA Male Athlete of the Year award to fellow paddler Jack Kabiriel as well as disabled people and people who don't have opportunities to partake in sports activities.

"Jack is battling cancer right now and is in San Diego undergoing treatment. This

See TARKONG on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Dr. Ron Snyder, center, joins Northern Marianas Sports Association officials led by president Jerry Tan, right, after winning the Coach of the Year award during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet Tuesday evening at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.



MARK RABAGO

Multi-sport athletes Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, left, and Isaiah Aleksenko show off their Female Athlete of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year trophies during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet Tuesday evening at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.